



[FY24 School Family Engagement Policy.docx](#)

School Parent and Family Engagement Policy

www.stephensonms.dekalb.k12.ga.us

Revised: 8/23/2023 & 9/14/23

Title I, Part A, Section 1116 of the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) requires that each school served under Title I, Part A, develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy/plan.

DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOLWIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT GOALS:

**Goal Area I: Student Success with Equity and Access
Improve student's mastery of learning standards**

- The DeKalb County School District will increase the percentage of students scoring at the Developing Learner level or above on the Georgia Milestones Literature **End of Grade (EOG) Assessment**.
- The DeKalb County School District will increase the percentage of students scoring at the Developing Learner level or above on the Georgia Milestones Math **End of Grade (EOG) Assessment**.

Stephenson Middle School ACADEMIC GOALS:

Priority Area #1: *By the end of the 2023-2024 school year, we will improve student mastery of academically rigorous learning standards in ELA as measured by:*

Increasing by 3% the number of students achieving proficient or higher on the ELA portion of the Georgia Milestones.

Priority Area #2: *By the end of the 2023-2024 school year, we will improve student mastery of academically rigorous learning standards in Mathematics as measured by:*

Increasing by 3% the number of students achieving proficient or higher on the Math portion of the Georgia Milestones.

Priority Area #3: *By the end of the 2023-2024 school year, we will decrease the number of 6-8th grade students in all SMS demographic groups (ED, EL, SWD, and black students) absent by 10%; decrease discipline infractions and referrals by 25%; and increase student affective engagement by 50% as measured by SWISS.*

Priority Area #4: *By the end of the 2023-2024 school year, we will improve student mastery of academically rigorous learning standards in Science and Social Studies as measured by:*

Increasing by 3% the number of students achieving proficient or higher on the Science and Social Studies portion of the Georgia Milestones.

Our school will focus on the following areas of achievement:

- **Literacy, math, science, social studies fluency, and Culture & Climate.**

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Stephenson Middle School will take the following actions to involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by parents, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

Parents are encouraged to attend Stakeholder's Input Meetings to jointly develop the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, School-Parent Compact, provide suggestions for Building Capacity of School Staff, and use of the 1% parent and family engagement set aside. Suggestions should be based on student needs and school improvement goals. Parents are also encouraged to participate in the school's parent surveys and other school events/activities to provide input throughout the year.

ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Stephenson Middle School will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents' requirements, the school parental involvement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

The Annual Title I Meeting will be held prior to October 15, 2023. The meeting will be held at flexible times to accommodate all stakeholders. Invitations will be sent to all parents via: school marquee, school website, calling posts, flyers, and email messages.

COMMUNICATIONS

Stephenson Middle School will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children the following:

- Timely information about the Title I programs
- Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds, transportation, childcare or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement.
- Residential facilities (Homeless, foster care, and N&D) in our school's attendance area are included in our parent and family engagement correspondence and activities.
- Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

We provide timely notices of Title I meetings, activities, and academic progress via the school website, email messages, Infinite Campus, and School Messenger (Calling Post), Marquee, and Parent Teacher Conference Nights. These communications allow parents time to adjust their schedules for meetings and to be aware of their child's performance at school.

The school marquee is provided as an additional means of communication with our stakeholders. Curriculum Night is held in September where administrators and teachers provide parents information about the curriculum, academic assessments used to measure student progress and testing data. Title I Stakeholder Input meetings are provided at multiple dates and times to parents and stakeholders to respond to any suggestions or ideas they may have related to the education of their child. This information is then used to develop the school parent policy, school-parent compact, building capacity workshops for parents and faculty, as well as the parent and family engagement set aside.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Stephenson Middle School will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The school-parent-compact will serve as an additional means of communicating how the school and parents will strengthen the partnership between school and home to increase student achievement.

As part of this plan, our school and families will jointly develop a school-parent compact, which is an agreement that parents, teachers, and students will develop that explains how parents and teachers will work together to make sure all our students reach our school-wide goals. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students, and teachers during the Title I Stakeholder's Input Meeting.

The compact will explain how the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children improve student mastery of academically rigorous learning standards in all math and ELA classes. Compacts will be sent home with all students, placed on the school's website, and in the Parent Resource Room. Parents are asked to sign and return the signature sheet.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

Stephenson Middle School will take the following actions to involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent by:

Parents will participate in the development of the 1% parent and family engagement set aside during the Stakeholder's Input Meetings. Parents are also encouraged to complete surveys and feedback forms regarding the parental set-aside. The information will be shared at the Annual Title I meeting.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Stephenson Middle School will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

Our school will designate a staff member to collaborate with feeder schools and designated agencies to support students and families. Additionally, we will provide families and students support in transitioning to sixth grade by inviting parents and students to a rising sixth grade orientation at our school.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Stephenson Middle School will build the parents' capacity for strong parental involvement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

- Providing parents with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
- Materials and training to help parents to work with their child to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.
- Providing assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 - The State's academic content standards.
 - The State's student academic achievement standards.
 - The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments.
 - The requirements of Title I, Part A.
 - How to monitor their child's progress.
 - How to work with educators.

Our school will provide parents a description and explanation of the curriculum during our Curriculum Night. The school will provide parents with individual results of academic assessments including MAP and Georgia Milestones End of Grade (EOG). Parents will be informed of the required assessments during Curriculum Night, parent teacher conferences, information provided on website, school marquee, and calling posts.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Stephenson Middle School will provide training to educate the teachers, pupil services personnel, principal, and other staff in how to reach out to, communicate, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and the school by:

Our school staff meetings will double as professional development where staff members will discuss strategies and develop ideas to enhance communication, resource sharing, and enhance relationships with community stakeholders to increase student achievement.

- Based on parent feedback and survey data we will build the capacity of our school faculty and staff twice a semester.
- Topics may include the following:
 - How to reach out to, communicate, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents
 - How to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and the school

In addition, the Title I Family Engagement Facilitator will support the school by meeting with the Leadership Team to develop professional learning opportunities based on feedback from parent input to strengthen ties between home, school, and community.

Stephenson Middle School will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:

- Inviting parents to attend school activities
- Asking parents to monitor student progress via the Infinite Campus Parent Portal
- Incorporating a convenient, easier way for parents to schedule parent conferences via morning parent drop off, parent pick up and visiting the parent center.

DISCRETIONARY SCHOOL PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT
POLICY COMPONENTS

- Train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.
- To maximize parental involvement and participation in their child’s education, arrange school meetings at a variety of times or conduct in-home conferences with teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children and parents who are unable to attend conferences at school.
- Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities.

Stephenson Middle School takes into consideration the time and resource constraints that our parents face. Since most of our parent/guardians work varied work schedules, parent-teacher conferences and student-led conferences will be held at various times throughout the school year. Student-Led conferences will also be a part of the parent engagement plan for this school year. Parents are also encouraged to communicate with teachers via Infinite Campus (Parent Portal). Parent workshops are held on different days and times throughout the year based on the data we received on the parent surveys. We will collaborate with community-based organizations to assist in disseminating school communications as well as possibly offering parent engagement workshops off-site based on parent feedback.