



## Laurel Middle School Parent and Family Engagement Plan/Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Laurel Middle School** receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by section 1116(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

Laurel Middle School agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school, distribute it to the parents of participating children, and make the parent and family engagement policy available to the local community.
- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.
- Be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parent and Family Engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- (C) Parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child
- (D) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA

## **DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

### **JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

**Laurel 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 will engage in the school Title 1 Planning process through:

- Membership representation on Quarterly Data Team/School Improvement Meetings
- Annual Title 1 Informational Night
- Annual Title 1 Strategic Planning Review

### **ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING**

**Laurel 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 parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

The Annual Title 1 Meeting at LMS will take place each Fall on the first Wednesday in October, the school will advertise through social media, instant alert, and the district website for this meeting and send invites to all parents. This meeting will be held in the evening and childcare/activities as well as meals, refreshments, et cetera will be

provided to accommodate parents and make attendance feasible. Transportation needs will be assessed.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

**Laurel 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, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement.
- 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:

LMS will communicate the Title 1 work and opportunities for involvement to parents through multiple avenues to ensure awareness and understanding of the process. Direct paper copies of the plan and subsequent invitations will be sent home 1 week prior to any upcoming Title 1 compact related event. Also, automated calls, social media accounts, and the district website will all be used to communicate elements and participation opportunities in the Title 1 process for all parents. Materials will be translated for EL students and families.

## **SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT**

**Laurel Middle School** will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

The School Parent Compact will describe school-parent compact will be jointly developed/amended with parents and family members during the annual Title 1 review meeting each year. The compact outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share in the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and the parents will build and develop partnerships to help children achieve the State's high standards

## **RESERVATION OF FUNDS**

If applicable, **Laurel 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 parent and family engagement is spent during the following parent engagement opportunities for feedback:

- Membership representation on Quarterly Data Team/School Improvement Meetings
- Annual Title 1 Informational Night
- Annual Title 1 Strategic Planning Review

## **COORDINATION OF SERVICES**

Laurel Middle School will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- Expanding community partnerships with the following programs:  
Western Sussex Boys and Girls Club  
Children and Families First  
Discovery Cove and Imagination Station Child Care Centers
- Participating in virtual Parent Camps

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS**

**Laurel Middle School** will build the parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement 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 achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and
- Materials and training to help parents to work with their child to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement

- Providing assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
  - The challenging State’s academic 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 to improve the achievement of their child

LMS may host the following opportunities for building parent and caregiver capacity: Family Nights, Family Reading Night, Parent University Events, Registration Events, and EL/Newcomer Nights

**BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF**

Laurel Middle School will provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school by:

- LMS will educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, other school leaders, and other staff during staff meetings and grade-level PLC meetings, with the assistance of parents, on the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school.