

Little Mill Middle School Parent and Family Engagement Plan *Dream, Strive, Achieve* 2017-2018 School Year



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School Plan for Shared Student Achievement

What is it? The policy is a document that outlines the school's Parent and Family Engagement Plan. It describes how the school will create meaningful partnerships to impact student achievement and success. We realize that strong relationships between school and home are vital to student achievement. Little Mill Middle School is committed to working with families in creating strong relationships and learning opportunities for parents and students.

How is it revised? Little Mill's Parent and Family Engagement Policy is jointly developed with parents and families. LMMS conducts surveys throughout the school year. All parent feedback is used to revise the plan for the next school year. The plan is posted on our school website, available in the Family Resource Center, and distributed for parental review. Our Input-Review meeting in May is another opportunity for stake-holders to revise the plan for the upcoming school year. The plan is finalized and voted on by members of the Title I Action Team in August and presented at the Title I Annual Meeting in September.

Who is it for? All students and their families are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. LMMS provides opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.

Where is it available? Once finalized, the plan will be posted at Little Mill, and posted on the school's website. Those interested can also visit the Family Resource Room to receive an additional copy.

What is Title I?

Title I is a federally funded program that is intended to supplement the regular classroom curriculum. Students are provided extra assistance in reading and/or math. The program's goal is to support students, so that every child meets and/or exceeds the state's standards. A variety of teaching methods and materials are used to reinforce curriculum concepts.

FCSS District Title I Goals

District Goals

Forsyth County Schools set goals for the entire district. The district goals are:

- All schools and programs in FCS will communicate effectively to provide substantial information related academic and social/emotional learning and increase family engagement in the 2017-2018 school year.
- 100% of FCS educators will use data to drive instructional decisions for academic and social and

Reservation of Funds

LMMS will involve parent and family members of students receiving services under Title 1 in the decisions regarding how reserved funds are allotted for parent and engagement activities. LMMS will **reserve 1%** from the total amount of Title I funds received in FY18 to carry out the parent and **family engagement** requirements listed in this policy and as described in section 1116 of the ESSA. Throughout the year, parents may complete surveys and give input as to how this **Family Engagement Set Aside** is spent. The Input-Review Meeting on May 1, 2018 is a focused time for feedback from all stakeholders on all Title 1 topics. If you would like to give input or feedback or have any questions, please contact:

As part of this plan, Little Mill and our families have developed a school-parent compact, which is an agreement that parents, teachers, and students will develop together that

Parents can review the Title 1 Schoolwide Plan by accessing it through the school website, the Family Resource Center, the front office, or by contacting Anne Marie Sasser, Family Engagement Coordinator, at amsasser@forsyth.k12.ga.us or 678-965-5000 ext. 342203

If the Title 1 Schoolwide Plan is not satisfactory to parents, Little Mill will submit any parent comments to the district via email or hard copy.

Assistance for Parents

All parents are welcome at LMMS!

The LMMS Title I Family Engagement Program can provide transportation, childcare and translation or interpretation services, as well as flexible meeting times in an effort to remove the barriers to family engagement on campus. Children will be welcome at all times in the Family Resource Center.

If you need assistance with transportation, childcare, or interpretation, or have any questions about this document or the Title I Program, please contact: Anne Marie Sasser – Family Engagement Coordinator 678-965-5000 ext. 342203 or amsasser@forsyth.k12.ga.us

Supportive Programs

LMMS offers training for the Parent Portal system and ItsLearning. This will help parents be more connected with their child's progress in school, such as, grades, attendance, homework assignments, and test schedules.

LMMS provides a Family Resource Center for parents to check out materials to use to assist their student at home with academic games, DVDs and books. Parents can use this room to volunteer and help students/teachers in the school.

LMMS offers parent workshops in the mornings, afternoons, and evenings for parents to attend. We also offer online and individual meeting opportunities. Parents can contact the Family Engagement Coordinator by email or phone. Emails, invites, and newsletters are emailed and mailed to parents. Facebook, Twitter, and the school website are used to keep parents informed and notified of school events.

LMMS offers opportunities for students to explore college and career ready resources through surveys, guest speakers, shadowing experiences, and field trips to the University of North Georgia and Lanier Tech.

Family Engagement Plan and Activities

***Little Mill Middle School will host the following events to **build the capacity for strong family engagement** to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to **improve student academic achievement**. Family Night meetings will be held in the evenings at 6:30 pm and again the morning after at 8:30 am. Parent workshops and support meetings will be offered in the mornings, afternoons, and evenings. Family events may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to **family engagement**.

- **Mustang Camp** – (6th grade) July 29, 2017 - Meet the teachers and establish contact.
- **Open House** (7th and 8th grades) July 31, 2017 – Meet the teachers and establish contact.
- **Success 101: Family Night** – August 2017 - Learn strategies for academic success through organization skills, communication with teachers, familiarity with itslearning, and knowledge of extra opportunities for help with homework, skills, and standards.
- **Title 1 Annual Meeting** – September 2017 - Opportunity for all stakeholders (students, families, teachers, and community members) to learn about our Title 1 program including the school wide plan, the school-parent compacts, and parents' requirements. Invitations will be sent home and posted on the school website and social media.
- **Math Family Night** – October 2017 - Engage in hands-on family math games and real-world applications and discover ways to support math standards at home.
- **Science Family Night** – November 2017 – Engage in hands-on family science experiences and real-world applications and discover ways to support science standards at home.
- **Digital Learning for Families** – December 2017 - Gain knowledge of specific strategies to help your student at home through an online digital format.
- **Assessment Family Night** – January 2017 - Examine key standards to master and general test-taking strategies to ensure success in preparing for assessments.
- **High School Transition Family Night** – February 2017- 8th grade families will register for high school classes and engage high school representatives in questions about transitioning into high school and the expectations of the academic classroom.
- **Middle School Transition Family Night** – March 2017- Rising 6th grade families will meet middle school teachers and engage administrators, teachers, and staff about transitioning into middle school and the expectations of the academic classroom.
- **Title 1 May Meeting** – May 2017 - Opportunity for stakeholders to share their feedback, thoughts, critiques, and suggestions on the successes and areas for improvement of our Title 1 program.
- **Parent Workshops** – Trainings and meetings throughout the year that include ways to support your child at home to succeed in school.
- **Hispanic Circle of Support Meetings**– Monthly meetings conducted in Spanish to help parents learn skills to help support their child in school and learn of community resources available to their family to support learning at home.

School Measures to Provide Required Assistance: Building Capacity of Parents

Little Mill Middle School will take the following measures to promote and support parents as an important foundation of the school in order to strengthen the school and reach our academic school goals. We will –

- Promote the Forsyth County Schools' Learner Profile that seeks to create a clear path to success for all students
- Ensure that all information related to school and family programs, meetings, and other activities are published and posted to the school website and included in school newsletters for all parents in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand
- Conduct professional learning on family engagement practices and effective strategies for staff to communicate and build partnerships with families
- Provide families with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school
- Respond to parent requests for family engagement activities
- Provide families with a description and explanation of the assessments used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels the students are expected to meet
- Provide families with an overview of the assessments used to measure student progress and performance
- Provide families with individual student academic assessment results and interpretation of those results as discussed through parent-teacher conferences and other communications
- Provide assistance to parents of children served by the school in understanding topics such as: The Georgia Standards of Excellence, Georgia Milestones, Title 1, Part A Requirements, strategies parents can use to support their child's academic progress, and partnering with teachers to support their child's academic achievements
- Share information in both English and Spanish on the school website and newsletters for families to understand the school's academic standards and assessments, as well as the ways parents can monitor their child's progress and work with educators
- Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding school wide events and activities such as phone messages, social media, and flyers
- Provide necessary materials and activities for families at conferences, meetings, and through the Family Resource Center to help work with their student to improve their student's academic achievement
- Collaborate with community leaders and partners in education to increase participation and awareness of the school family engagement plan and activities
- Offer trainings and meeting topics to families that address student achievement and meet a variety of educational backgrounds
- Offer family meetings in a variety of formats (in person, online, home visits, or individual meetings) to address the specific needs of our families
- Provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their child's achievement through literacy and technology training to foster family engagement

School Measures to Provide Required Assistance: Building Capacity of Staff

Little Mill Middle School will take the following measures to promote and support staff as an important foundation of the school in order to strengthen the school and reach our academic school goals. We will –

- Train teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents through meetings, workshops, and both informal and formal dialog in the following areas:
 - ◆ The value and utility of contributions of parents
 - ◆ How to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners
 - ◆ Implementing and coordinating parent programs to build ties between home and school
 - ◆ Providing information in a format, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand
 - ◆ Responding to parent requests for parent and family engagement activities