

# Little Mill Middle School



## Parent and Family Engagement Plan and Policy

*Dream, Strive, Achieve, Celebrate*

2020-2021 School Year

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### What is Title I?

Title 1 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

### Forsyth County Schools District Title I Goals 2020-2021

1. During the 2020-2021 school year, Forsyth County Schools will increase the achievement score within the Closing Gaps component of the CCRPI by meeting the 3% target established in the baseline school year for each grade level band.
2. 100% of Forsyth County Schools will implement a family engagement plan based on district expectations by the 2021-2022 school year.
3. 100% of FCS Educators will use data-based decision making to support the academic and social/emotional learning of students in Tiers 1-3 of the MT year.

### Little Mill School Improvement Goals 2020-2021

1. In the 2020-2021 school year, LMMS will increase the percentage of students proficient or above on the ELA Georgia Milestones by 3% in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The percentage of students Proficient or higher in ELA will increase from 64.1 to 67.1 in 6<sup>th</sup>, 52.6 to 55.6 in 7<sup>th</sup>, and 63.6 to 66.6 in 8<sup>th</sup>.

## 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 and provides opportunities for parents to provide input on our Family Engagement Policy at Family Night events and other family engagement activities. All parent feedback is used to revise the plan for the next school year to meet the changing needs of parents and the school. The plan is posted on our school website, available in the Family Resource Center, and distributed for parental review. It is also available to our community through our school website, Family Resource Center, and by contacting Anne Marie Sasser, Family Engagement Coordinator, 678-965-500 ext. 342203 or [amsasser@forsyth.k12.ga.us](mailto:amsasser@forsyth.k12.ga.us). Our Input-Review meeting in May is another opportunity for stakeholders to revise the plan for the upcoming school year. Due to COVID-19 this year, additional opportunities were offered to parents to provide input via an online format. 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.

### 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 FY21 to carry out the parent and **family**

in this policy and as described in section 1116 of the ESSA. Parents will be invited to complete surveys and give input as to how this **Family** Engagement Plan. The Input/Review meeting in May 2021 will be a focused time for parents to provide input on all Title 1 topics. If you would like to give input or feedback or have questions, please contact Anne Marie Sasser, Family Engagement Coordinator, 678-965-500 ext. 342203 or [amsasser@forsyth.k12.ga.us](mailto:amsasser@forsyth.k12.ga.us)

Parents and community members can review the Title 1 School Wide 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](mailto:amsasser@forsyth.k12.ga.us) or 678-965-5000 ext. 342203

If the Title 1 School Improvement Plan is not satisfactory to parents, Little Mill will submit any parent comments to the district via email or hard copy and implement district complaint procedures.

### School – Parent Compacts

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 developed together that explains how parents and teachers will work together to make sure all our students reach grade-level standards. The compacts are reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students, and teachers during the Input/Review Meeting in May, other meetings, and through surveys. The school-parent compacts are given to parents at the beginning of each school year and will be revisited throughout the year to review.

### 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.

### **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 to remove the barriers to family engagement on campus. Children will always be welcome 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 at 678-965-5000 ext. 342203 or [amsasser@forsyth.k12.ga.us](mailto:amsasser@forsyth.k12.ga.us)

### **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 the plan and 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, copyright piracy, 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
- Provide opportunities for flexible and regular meetings so that parents have multiple opportunities to provide input

### **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 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

## 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, childcare, or home visits, as such services relate to **family engagement**.

**Mustang Camp** - (6<sup>th</sup> grade) July 2020 - Meet the teachers and establish contact.

**Open House** - (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades) July 2020 - Meet the teachers and establish contact.

**Success 101: Family Night** - August 2020 - 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 2020 - Opportunity for all stakeholders (students, families, teachers, and community members) to learn about our Title 1 program including the schoolwide 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 2020 - Engage in hands-on family math games and real-world applications and discover ways to support math standards at home.

**Science Family Night** - November 2020 - 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 2020 - Gain knowledge of specific strategies to help your student at home through an online digital format.

**Assessment Family Night** - January 2021 - Examine key standards to master and general test-taking strategies to ensure success in preparing for assessments.

**High School Transition** - February 2021 - 8<sup>th</sup> 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 2021 - Rising 6<sup>th</sup> 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 Input / Review Meeting** - May 2021 - 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 on how to use Parent Portal, itslearning, and ways to support your child at home to succeed in school.