



# LOWNDES COUNTY

*School District*

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## **School, Parent, and Family Engagement Policy**

*New Hope Middle School*

*2020-2021*

*Revised August 30, 2021*

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, New Hope 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).

The New Hope 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 (physically or virtual 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**

New Hope 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.

- Publicize meetings in a variety of ways
- Provide a variety of meeting times to accommodate parents’ schedules in a variety of ways (on teams, through google forms, etc)
- Work with parents to develop a written parental involvement policy that is agreeable to them and describes ways of meeting the following requirements in Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
- Hold an annual meeting, at a convenient time, for all parents of participating children.
- Submit parents’ comments on the school-wide program plan to the LEA if parents do not find the plan to be satisfactory.

### **ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING**

New Hope 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 virtually

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.

New Hope Middle School will hold the Annual Title I meeting during the first semester of school to inform parents of the requirements of Title I and the school's participation as well as the parents' rights to be involved. Parents will be informed of meeting times through a variety of sources--newsletters, notification on the NHMS website, Schoology, and the automated calling system.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

New Hope 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:

NHMS will distribute the Parent and Family Engagement Policy to parents at the Annual Title I Parent Meeting and at the Spring Planning Meetings. It will be posted on the NHMS website and on Schoology. Copies will be available in the lobby of the school and in the library. NHMS will provide information related to school and parent programs at Parent and Family Engagement meetings throughout the year. Parents will be made aware of meetings in newsletters, on Schoology, on flyers posted in the lobby, and automated phone calls. Newsletters and Schoology notices, to the extent practicable, will be translated in a language that parents can understand.

## **SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT**

New Hope 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.

- Notify parents of the opportunity to provide input with drafting the compact through newsletters, Schoology, and automated calls home
- Provide copies of the current school-parent compact at Parent and Family Engagement meetings, on the NHMS website, and on Schoology
- Request input for revising the parent-school compact at Parent and Family Engagement meetings throughout the year

- Vote on suggested revisions at the Spring Planning Meetings
- Revise the parent-school compact as voted on at the Spring Planning Meetings

### **RESERVATION OF FUNDS**

If applicable, New Hope 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 by:

NHMS will notify parents of the amount of the Parent and Family Engagement 1% reservation allocation at the Annual Title I Parent Meeting held during the first semester of school. Parents will be given opportunity to provide input into how this money is spent during the discussion/question time of the meeting and through a questionnaire at the conclusion of the meeting.

### **COORDINATION OF SERVICES**

New Hope 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

- partnering with Community Counseling to provide services at school for students and families
- partnering with the Junior Auxiliary to provide Bullying Prevention programs
- providing a parent coordinator to serve as the liaison between the school and home

### **BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS**

New Hope 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

New Hope Middle School will provide workshops/meeting to build the capacity of parents at the Annual Title I Parent Meeting, Parent and Family Engagement meetings held each 9 weeks, Parent Conference Day, and Spring Planning Meetings. NHMS designates a Parent Coordinator to serve as a liaison between the school and the parent. The parent coordinator helps to organize the meetings listed above and sends home newsletters each 9 weeks and Schoology messages to keep parents informed of upcoming opportunities for parent support.

### **BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF**

New Hope 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.

New Hope Middle School will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by discussing the Parent and Family Engagement Plan with the NHMS staff at a focused faculty meeting.