

## TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

### 1.0 Purpose

Educating the children of Mercer County is the collective responsibility of parents, teachers, and community leaders. Together, we share a common vision and purpose if our children are to achieve academic success. Parents must become actively involved in the planning and decision making process of the school system, in order to accomplish this mission. Research has shown that when parents are engaged and support students' academic endeavors, the opportunities for achievement and success are greater.

This district wide parental involvement policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by Title I Parent Advisory Board meetings held on October 10, 2019 and March 12, 2020.\* (\*Cancelled due to pandemic.)

### 2.0 Definitions

- 2.1 **Parent and family engagement** means the participation of parents and family in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring: that parents and family play an integral role in assisting their child's learning; that parents and family are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; that parents and family 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; the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1116 of the ESSA.

### 3.0 Procedures

- 3.1 **Supporting parental and family engagement** in the schools. Mercer County Schools agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:
- 3.1.a Mercer County Schools will continue programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
  - 3.1.b Consistent with section 1116, Mercer County Schools will work with its schools to ensure that the required school level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of section 1116(d) of the ESSA and each include, as a

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component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1116(d) of the ESSA.

- 3.1.c Mercer County Schools will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1116 of ESSA.
- 3.1.d In carrying out the Title I, Part A Parent and Family Engagement, to the extent practicable, Mercer County Schools and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information in a uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request and to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- 3.1.f If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1116 of the ESSA is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any written parent comments along with the plan when it is submitted to the WVDE.
- 3.1.g Mercer County Schools will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the one percent (1%) of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental engagement is spent, and will ensure that not less than ninety-five percent (95%) of the one percent (1%) reserved goes directly to the schools.
- 3.1.h Mercer County Schools will be governed by the following statutory definition of Parent and Family engagement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition.
- 3.2 **Implementing Parent and Family Engagement** - Mercer County Schools will take the following actions to involve parents and families in the joint development of its district wide Parent and Family Engagement plan under section 1116 of the ESSA:
  - 3.2.a Solicit input from the Title I County Advisory Board;
  - 3.2.b Inform parents, via Blackboard, Schoology, the Mercer County App, and flyers/school social media pages, of the opportunity to provide input into the development and implementation of the Title I plan;
  - 3.2.c Inform parents, via Mercer County Schools Website and county Facebook page of the opportunity to provide input into the development and implementation of the Title I plan.

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- 3.3 **School Review** - Mercer County Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
- 3.3.a Solicit input from the Title I County Advisory Board,
  - 3.3.b Inform parents, via Schoology and/or Blackboard as well as various social media platforms, of the opportunity to provide input into the development, implementation and review of the Title I plan,
  - 3.3.c Inform parents, via Mercer County Schools Website, of the opportunity to provide input into the development and implementation of the Title I plan.
- 3.4 **Assistance** - Mercer County Schools will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
- 3.4.a Provide Title I teachers and principals training activities relevant to planning and implementing parent involvement programs.
  - 3.4.b Provide Title I schools with a network of speakers and in-house resources.
  - 3.4.c Encourage Title I schools, with similar needs, to work collaboratively with other schools to plan, schedule, and implement parent training and activities.
  - 3.4.d Disseminate, to principals and Title I teachers, ESSA requirements for parent and family engagement plan to include trainings that address equipping teachers to train parents to work with children academically, equip parents with parenting skills, and equip parents to work with their children academically.
- 3.5 **Coordination** - Mercer County Schools will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other programs such as: Read Aloud of Mercer County, Reading Bee, CASE of WV, Family Resource Network: Community Connections, United Way of the Virginias First Book Program, Therapy Services from Rainelle Mental Health Center, REACHH-Reaching Everyone to Achieve Healthier Home, Chamber of Commerce of the Two Virginias, Literacy Committee, Craft Memorial and Princeton Public Libraries, Partners in Education, Career Connections Advisory Group, Battle of the Books, Math Field Day, Social Studies Fair, Mercer County Science and Engineering Fair, and Trash 2 Treasure.

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3.6 **Improving Academic Achievement** - Mercer County Schools will build school and parent capacity for strong parent and family engagement in order to ensure effective engagement of parents and family and to support a partnership among the school involved and parents and family to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

3.6.a Mercer County Schools, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, will provide assistance to parents and families of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as 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 Part A, how to monitor their child's progress, and how to work with educators by undertaking the following actions:

1. Holding annual trainings conducted by county office staff
2. Conducting book studies
3. Informing parents of the availability of the West Virginia Standards for College and Career Readiness on the WV Department of Education Website
4. Providing access to computerized basic skill programs
5. Sending letters to parents pertaining to testing purposes, procedures and interpreting results
6. Providing trainings relevant to assessment instruments and interpreting data results
7. Distributing of county report cards
8. Notifying parents of each students' performance on the WV General Summative Assessment.

3.6.b Mercer County Schools will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents and families work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement by:

1. Offering training to enable parents and families to assist their child with academic skills and enhance parenting skills
2. Distributing books and other relevant materials to parents at training sessions
3. Demonstrating and modeling by teachers and/or technology integration specialists to assist parents in understanding how to help their children with academic school work and become more literate in technology

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4. Informing parents and families of Websites relevant to Mercer County curriculum.
- 3.6.c Mercer County Schools will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principal and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents and families as equal partners, in the value of utility of contributions of parents and families, and in how to implement and coordinate parent and family engagement programs and build ties between parents, families, and schools. Mercer County Schools will:
1. Encourage parents and families to attend training conducted by the WVDE Title I program
  2. Schedule trainings that provide collaboration between the home and Mercer County Title I program
  3. Encourage and assist parents and families in becoming actively engaged in transitioning from one school location to another (Preschool to Primary, Primary to Intermediate, Intermediate to Middle, and Middle to High School).
- 3.6.d Mercer County Schools will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with public preschool and other 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:
1. Working with schools to establish parent and family resource centers
  2. Providing time for home visits to be made by administrators or teachers as appropriate
  3. Inviting parents and families to attend all parent meetings and/or trainings
  4. Training parents, families and community members to become Read Aloud Parent Volunteers
  5. Collaborating with the following agencies in designing appropriate parent training sessions and activities for parents: CASE of WV, Mercer County Health Department, Family Resource Network: Community Connections, DHHR, Mercer County Dept. of Health & Human Resources, REACHH (Reaching Everyone to Achieve Healthier Homes), Rainelle Mental Health Center Therapy Services, Southern Highlands Community Mental Health Center, Partners in Education, Craft Memorial and Princeton Public Libraries, Concord University, Bluefield State College, Child Protect of Mercer County, Mercer County School Wellness Counsel.

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- 3.6.e Mercer County Schools will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meeting, 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:
1. Provide notifications on the Mercer County School's App
  2. Send telephone notification, via Schoology and/or Blackboard will be utilized to announce parent meetings
  3. Send school report cards are sent home annually, along with an explanation of how to interpret it
  4. Send flyers announcing parent meetings are given to children to take home
  5. Send notices are mailed to advisory board members announcing the meetings
  6. Provide information to parents through Mercer County Schools' Website, Facebook Page, Read Aloud, school newsletters, and Schoology.
- 3.7 **Family Engagement** - Mercer County Schools may, in consultation with its parents, undertake the following activities listed under section 1116(d) of the ESSA that build parent's capacity for engagement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement:
- 3.7.a Provide necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training
  - 3.7.b Arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school
  - 3.7.c Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental engagement
  - 3.7.d Notify parents of available time frames within the IS Days for parent conferences
  - 3.7.e Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1116(d) as parents may request.

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### 4.0 Administration

- 4.1 **Program Evaluation** - Mercer County Schools will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). Mercer County Schools will use the findings of the evaluation regarding its parent involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.
- 4.1.a Conduct a meeting with parents to evaluate the effectiveness of county and school parent involvement policies
  - 4.1.b Disseminate a survey to parents to identify barriers that discourage attendance at parent involvement meetings and/or trainings, along with factors that encourages attendance
  - 4.1.c Utilize data from surveys to design and plan more effective parent involvement activities
  - 4.1.d Inform and educate ESL parents of the provisions of the ESL program and other programs that enable them to acquire English Language proficiency.

### 5.0 Severability

If any portion of this policy or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this policy.

Authority: W.Va. Constitution, Article XII, §2, and W.Va. Code §§16-9A-4, 16-9A-9, 17A-1-1, 18-2-5, 18-2-5a, 18-2-7b, 18-2-9, 18-2-33, 18-2C-1 et seq., 18-5-1, 18-5-13, 18-16-1, 18A-1-1, 18A-5-1, 18A-5-1a, 60A-1-101, 60A-7-11a, 61-2-15, 61-7-2, and 61-7-11a.

Source: Board of Education Minutes

Date(s): 6/24/12, 9/09/14, 9/12/17

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This policy was revised by the Mercer County Board of Education on above date and will become effective upon BOE approval for the 2020-2021 school year. Mercer County Schools will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 1, 2020.