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GARRETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

TITLE I

DISTRICT PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN – SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022

The Garrett County Public School System's Title I Office will plan and support programs, activities, and procedures in all Title I schools for engaging parents. The plan outlines efforts to better engage parents and build capacity for both parents and educators in forming a strong partnership to promote the educational goals supporting high academic expectations for all students. To support this plan, the Title I Office will:

1. Involve parents in jointly revising the Title I Parent Engagement Plan, which is part of Garrett County's Consolidated Strategic Plan.
 - At least annually, invite parents from all Title I schools to review, revise, and provide feedback on the district's Title I Parent and Family Engagement Plan and Garrett County's Consolidated Strategic Plan.
2. Provide coordination and technical assistance to Title I schools in the planning and implementing of effective parent engagement activities to improve student achievement and school performance:
 - At least quarterly, hold regular meetings with school administrators to support the implementation of parent activities.
 - Visit schools regularly to ensure each school's Parent and Family Engagement Plan is being implemented, and provide technical assistance, as requested.
 - Parent Interest Survey is sent out at the start and end of each school year to gather parent input regarding the Title I Parent Family Engagement funding, parent preference of meetings including days/times, workshops and other activities that support parent and family engagement.
3. Provide assistance to parents in understanding the Maryland College & Career Readiness Standards, state and local academic assessments, and Title I requirements. Assist parents in monitoring their child's progress, accessing grades online, and working with educators to improve student achievement.
 - Maintain and update the GCPS website to include information on Title I College and Career Readiness Standards, and MCAP.
 - Post copies of the Garrett County Public Schools' Title I Parent and Family Engagement Plan at each Title I school, on Title I school web pages, and the district's web page, www.garrettcountyschools.org.
 - Provide access to the Parent Portal for parents to monitor student grade and progress.
4. Coordinate efforts along with school administrators in providing materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve academic achievement:
 - At least annually, administer the Title I Parent Interest Survey to help identify topics of parental interest and design programs that support parental engagement.
 - The GCPS website will provide tips for parents on how to support student learning at home.
 - Every semester offer parent outreach activities focusing on reading, math, science, or technology.
 - Provide assistance to parents in navigating instructional tools such as: Schoology and Google Meets to support student learning at home. We will provide support as needed at school or district levels.

We will set expectations at the beginning of the year on how often parents should check account for upcoming deadlines.

- At least annually conduct MCAP/STEAM Science Nights and familiarize parents with these curriculum standards and assessments. Provide materials/ideas and encourage parents to support their child/children in test preparation.
5. In an effort to communicate with parents as equal partners, with parental assistance, work with instructional staff to encourage solicitation of parent feedback:
 - Analyze data from the fall and spring Title I Parent Engagement Surveys to identify professional development topics on communicating and working with parents as equal partners.
 - Coordinate regular meetings of Parent Engagement Coordinators/Administration and school faculty members to provide mini-sessions related to parent engagement. Invite Parent Engagement Coordinators to Title I Principal and Parent Liaison Kick Off Meeting.
 6. Coordinate with Head Start and/or Judy Center staff, and the Garrett County Health Department in providing parent engagement programs and activities:
 - Judy Center staff will provide information on literacy, child development, nutrition, and available community resources/services.
 - Head Start staff will provide parent information and learning activities. They will assist in the joint registration/transitioning of Head Start students to kindergarten and in registering students for pre—kindergarten.
 - The Garrett County Health Department provides information to parents on wellness and safety programs as well as available community resources/services.
 7. Reserve funds to provide support to children experiencing homelessness. Garrett County Public Schools has a process for using these funds to assist homeless and foster care families.
 8. Ensure that information is provided in a way that all parents can understand and provide translated documents as needed and/or upon request.
 9. Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental engagement activities including transportation and childcare costs to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions. Childcare will be provided on Title I Parent Engagement events.
 10. Maximize parental engagement and participation by arranging school meetings/programs at a variety of times, conducting parent/teacher conferences by phone, encouraging the use of Parent Portal via PowerSchool, parent Schoology accounts, and School Messenger.
 11. The Garrett County Public School system conducts an overall Parent & Family Engagement evaluation on the content and effectiveness of the system’s Parent and Family Engagement Policy by surveying parents throughout the district to ensure parent needs are being met to support learning at home and eliminate barriers to participation.
 12. Parent Engagement Coordinators/Administrators make an effort to personally contact parents with limited English proficiency or parents with limited literacy proficiency to assist with the survey. Each school receives survey results to assist in making decisions for their Parent Engagement Plan. The school district will use the evaluation to revise the District Parent Engagement Policy and/or the Title I Parent Engagement Plan.