



Yazoo County School District's Parental and Family Engagement Plan



2024 - 2025

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BOARD APPROVED
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YAZOO COUNTY SCHOOLS

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Yazoo County School District's Parental and Family Engagement Plan

The Yazoo County School District (YCSD) is committed to fostering a collaborative partnership between the schools, families, the community, and other stakeholders in order to enhance students' academic achievement and schools' performance. This plan is developed in accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requirements and outlines strategies to engage parents and families in meaningful ways.

Mission Statement

Yazoo County Schools exist to create next generation leaders who pursue purposeful, productive lives.

Annual Evaluation

Yazoo County School District will conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental and family engagement plan. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents and families in activities authorized by Title I, Part A. The plan will be reviewed at the Annual Title I Planning Meeting. Parent comments and suggestions will be requested.

Yazoo County's Plan describes the means for carrying out the following parental engagement requirements at each school:

1. Involvement of Parents in the Instructional Program

Schools do the following:

- a. Convenes an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents/guardians shall be invited and encouraged to attend. Parents/guardians will be informed that they can directly affect the success of their children's learning and the right of parents/guardians to be involved.
Schools conduct an Annual Title I Meeting during the first term of each school year.
- b. Offers a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening.
Parent Teacher Conferences are held during the school day during teachers' planning periods. Parent Teacher Conferences for report card pick up are held after school hours. The Annual Title I Meeting is held after school hours.
- c. Involves parents/guardians in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of its parent involvement programs, the school's parental and family engagement policy, and the integration of these programs into the Schoolwide Plan.
The Schoolwide Plan and Comprehensive Needs Assessment is during Parent Teacher Association Meetings and during Title I Planning Team Meetings. Parent input is requested at parent meetings. A parent is also included on schoolwide planning teams.
- d. Develops and maintains consistent and effective communication between the home and school.
Consistent and effective communication is maintained by utilizing the following resources: the school's website, Parent Teacher Conferences, newsletters, monthly calendars, AIM messages, Active Parent, School Status phone calls and messages, letters, emails and the teacher support team conferences.

- e. Provides parents with an explanation of the school's curriculum, assessments, and proficiency levels students are expected to meet.

The following meetings: parent/student/teacher conferences, Annual Title I Meeting, Literacy Night, Math Night, Open House, Science/STEAM Night, home visits, teacher support team conferences, IEP meetings, and if necessary, are held. During this time, curriculum and assessment are discussed.

- f. Provides parents, if requested, with opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children.

If meetings are requested, the following staff members may be involved: administration, counselors, teachers, teacher support team, and/or district central office personnel. The entire staff enlists parental input at all levels. If the school-wide program is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, suggestions or any parent comments are made when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.

2. School-Family Compact

The school-family compact has been jointly developed which outlines how parents, the school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. It also describes how the school and parents will develop a partnership to help children reach proficiency on the Mississippi content standards. The school-family compact describes the following items:

- a. The school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction.
- b. The parents' responsibility to support their children's learning.
- c. The student's responsibility to actively participate in his/her education.
- d. The importance of ongoing communication between parents and teachers through, at least, annual conferences, reports on student progress, access to staff, and opportunities to volunteer and participate in and observe the educational program.

3. Building Capacity for Involvement

Schools engage parents in meaningful interactions with the school. It supports a partnership among staff, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. To help reach these goals, the school does the following:

- a. Assists parents in understanding academic content standards, assessments, and how to monitor and improve the achievement of their children.

Academic standards, assessments, and monitoring the achievement of students are discussed or administered at Open House, Literacy Night, Math Night, Science/STEAM Night, Parent Teacher Association Meetings, Parent Teacher Conferences, quarterly progress reports, and nine-week report cards.

- b. Provides materials and training to help parents develop techniques and strategies to use at home that support their children's academic achievement and to ensure their children's physical, social, and emotional well-being and healthy development in preparation for a productive future.

The following materials are provided for parents: district handbook (accessible at www.yazook12.org), progress reports, report cards, newsletters, School Status and AIM messages,

assessment results and monthly school, snack, breakfast, and lunch calendars. Academic topics are discussed at various meetings which are held throughout the school year.

- c. Educates staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value of parent contributions, how to communicate effectively with parents, and how to work with parents as equal partners.

The Administration and Counselors provide information to all faculty members at faculty meetings or during Professional Learning Communities throughout the year. A school attendance officer and the school attendance clerk assist with student attendance issues. A comprehensive needs assessment is conducted on a yearly basis to gather parent input. The data is shared with all stakeholders.

- d. Coordinates and integrates parental engagement with other programs and conducts other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

Schools utilize the following avenues to encourage parental participation: meetings, programs, the school's website, phone calls, school correspondences sent home to parents, and letters between parents and teachers.

- e. Distributes to parents information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities in a format and language that the parents understand.

Information is presented during the Annual Title I Meeting, Open House, parent teacher conferences, teacher support team meetings, instructional meetings, IEP meetings, and counseling meetings in a language that the parents can understand.

- f. Provides support for parental engagement activities requested by parents.

Suggestions and tips for parents to assist students at home are provided during Math, Literacy, and Science/STEAM nights. Teachers also provide instructional strategies to assist parents at home.

- g. Coordinates and integrates parental engagement strategies with programs such as headstart that encourage and support parents.

Parental engagement strategies are coordinated between pre-k students during Math, Literacy, and Science/STEAM nights. Teachers also provide strategies for parents.

4. Accessibility

Schools provide opportunities for all parents to participate, including parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory students.

The schools' Parental and Family Engagement Plan has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of all children participating in Title I programs, as evidenced by meeting minutes. Schools provide opportunities for all parents to participate, including parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory students.

5. Implementation and Monitoring

The district will provide oversight, resources, and professional development to ensure effective implementation of the parental and family engagement plans.

6. End of Year Evaluation

The plan will be evaluated for the effectiveness of the engagement strategies. Input will be gathered for the next school year.

7. Evaluation of the Budget

The mandatory 1% of funds which are allocated specifically for parent and family engagement activities will be utilized to ensure resources are available for training, communication tools, and engagement events.

Conclusion

Yazoo County School District is dedicated to enhancing parental and family engagement to support student achievement and school improvement. By working together, we can create a nurturing educational environment that benefits all students and prepares them for future success.