

# **Harrison County School District**



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

### **Harrison Central Elementary**

**2021-2022**

***Revised August 2, 2020***

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Harrison Central Elementary 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, agreed on by such parents, that shall describe the means of carrying out the requirements of The Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1116. Parents shall be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. Such policy shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of the parents and the school. The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parental and family engagement activities.

Harrison Central Elementary understands that parent and family engagement means the participation of parents and families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- Parents and families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- Parents and families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- Parents and families 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

Harrison Central Elementary agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by ESSA Section 1116:

#### **A. ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING**

Harrison Central Elementary 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 to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the

Title I program, the parents' requirements, the school parental involvement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

Harrison Central Elementary will invite parents to attend Open House during the beginning of the school year. This event is held in the evening and parents are informed about the school's Title I plan. Award ceremonies at the end of each nine weeks are other opportunities for parents to visit the school and hear about the Title I program. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend.

#### **B. FLEXIBLE NUMBER OF MEETINGS**

Harrison Central Elementary will offer a flexible number of engagement meetings at convenient times for families, such as meetings in the morning or evening (for which the school may use Title I funds to provide transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement).

#### **C. JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

Harrison Central Elementary will take the following actions to 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.

Harrison Central Elementary will conduct an annual School-wide Title I Meeting where parents will receive information about the school's Title I plan, and will be informed of their parental right to be involved in the planning of the school's instructional plan through serving on the School-wide Title I committee and by responding to surveys and questionnaires. If requested by parents, the school will provide regular meetings for parents to offer suggestions and to participate in decisions relating to the education of their children. Harrison Central Elementary will distribute copies of the plan at the schoolwide meeting. These documents will also be available on the school's website for parents and members of the community.

#### **D. COMMUNICATION**

Harrison Central Elementary will provide parents of participating children timely information about programs under Title I, including:

- a) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use,
- b) forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress,
- c) achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards, and
- d) if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicable possible.

Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, will be 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

Parents will receive a description and explanation of the school's programs/curriculum, academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet. Policies will be distributed at parent meetings and sent home to the parents that are unable to attend. In addition to this they will receive information concerning the development of the school compact, the federal goals and requirements of No Child Left Behind, and district policies. Following benchmark assessments in the fall and winter, parents are encouraged to attend parent-teacher conferences during which student data and proficiency levels are discussed. During the first meeting, the parents are asked to sign the parent school compact.

#### **E. DISSENSION PROCESS**

Harrison Central Elementary will submit any comments/concerns to the Harrison County School District Superintendent's office if the schoolwide plan and/or parent and family engagement policy is not satisfactory to parents.

*Any comments/concerns can be emailed to the Director of Federal Programs, Melissa Garrison, at [mgarrison@harrison.k12.ms.us](mailto:mgarrison@harrison.k12.ms.us) or phone at 228-539-6500.*

#### **F. SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT**

Harrison Central Elementary will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how families, school, staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standard and how the plan is used, reviewed, and updated.

Harrison Central Elementary will ask parent to share thoughts and ideas about the school parent compact at Open House, during parent teacher conferences, at the School wide Planning Meeting for Title I, and on the space provided for comments on the compact form.

Harrison Central Elementary reviews the compact each year and updates the compact as needed.

#### **G. BUILD CAPACITY OF PARENTS**

Harrison Central Elementary will build the parents' capacity for strong parental involvement to ensure effective involvement of parents and families and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

- 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 parental involvement
- Provide assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
  - 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 Title I, Part A,
  - how to monitor their child's progress, and
  - how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.
- Educate school personnel, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of the 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.
- Coordinate and integrate parental involvement 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 to fully participate in the education of their children.
- Harrison Central Elementary offers a parent resource center. Materials are available for parents to check out and take home. The materials can be used to strengthen student abilities in the areas of ELA and Math based on MCCRS.

## **H. ACCESSIBILITY**

Harrison Central Elementary in carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of this part, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities, for the participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members with limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children), including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

- Parents will be encouraged to become a part of their student's education using daily communicators/journals, phone calls, parent phone calls, (traditional or virtual), School/District Website, School/District FaceBook Page.
- Parents will be kept informed of their student's progress/growth throughout the year and each student will have a blue folder portfolio that will be reviewed with parents three times a year.
- All communication with parents will be presented in a language that all families can understand.

