

# Mountain Education Charter High School

## Parent and Family Engagement Plan/Policy

2019-2020  
Revised August 1, 2019  
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### What is Family Engagement?

Family Engagement means the participation of parents and family members in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- (B) That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- (C) That 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) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

### About the Parent and Family Engagement Plan/Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Mountain Education Charter High School (MECHS) has developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe MECHS's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals.

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and enjoy school more. Title I, Part A provides for substantive family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of ESSA contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children's education. The MECHS will work with its Title I school to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of federal law and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact.

## Jointly Developed

Each school year, MECHS will hold public meetings in the fall and spring. During the Spring Title I meeting in March and April 2019, Family Engagement Liaison's (FEL) called, sent mailed invitations, and posted announcements on site Facebook pages regarding this meeting. All parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the 2019-2020 school year.

During this meeting, parents also reviewed and discussed the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP), the District Improvement Plan, and the Parent Compacts. Additionally, FEL's met back together in May to review the district parent and family engagement policy before the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement policy was incorporated into the S-CLIP which was submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the plan at any time on the school district website or by submitting written comments to the FEL at your student's site. All feedback received by July 2019 was considered for revisions to this policy.

The district's plan to distribute this policy is to post it on the school website and at Family Engagement Liaison work spaces, and disseminate it during the annual Title I school meetings parents in a format and language they can understand.

## Strengthening Our School

This year, the district Parent Involvement Coordinator (PIC) will provide technical assistance and support to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Each site will receive notifications and resources from the PIC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and site visits, the district and the FEC will hold trainings quarterly to review family engagement plans and activities with MECHS staff.

Additionally, the sites will provide monthly student services meetings where the Family Engagement Liaison will be present to advocate for parent events and involvement.

## Reservation of Funds

Mountain Education Charter High School sets aside 1% or more of our budget for parent engagement. Family Engagement Liaison salaries are paid for and these employees host several meetings to education parents on MECHS procedures, school improvement goals, title budgets, parent involvement policies, compacts, and other documents. Family Engagement Liaison's specifically meet with parents twice a year to educate parents and ask for feedback. FEL's reach out to parents all throughout the year and gather feedback. The use of FEL's has strengthened our parent involvement and increased parent participation in surveys that help inform the CLIP, goals, and many other areas. It is evident that FEL's help parents and parents continue to seek this additional support.

Each FEL meeting for parents to provide suggestions on how these family engagement funds could be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level.

# Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents, family members, and community partners are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to attend two meeting opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.

## **Spring planning meetings at each site**

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the spring meeting at their site as well as review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement policy and the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan for the 2020-2021 school year. Each MECHS site will send invitations home and email and text parents notifying them about the date and time of the meeting. Information regarding these spring meetings will also be made available in the monthly Newsletters and MECHS website.

## **Electronic Input**

All parents and community members will be invited to provide electronic input on the revised district parent and family engagement plan and the S-CLIP for the 2020-2021 school year. Notices regarding this input opportunity will be emailed to all parents and listed on the website.

Input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual Title I Parent survey. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget and school staff training for parents to provide their comments.

**Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit  
[www.mymec.org](http://www.mymec.org) to review the meeting documents and leave your input.**

# Building Capacity

MECHS will build partnerships between its Title I Schools, families, and community with the goal of developing mutual support for student achievement. To develop capacity for this support, MECHS will implement a variety of family and community engagement initiatives. The Family Engagement Liaison's at each site to provide resources on family engagement and at home learning activities is one such initiative. Training and support of FELs was provided for through the Parent Involvement Coordinator.

***Of Parents*** - MECHS will work through its Title I program to provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to their student's learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I program. MECHS will provide parent workshops and meetings for parents to gain knowledge about the challenging state academic standards, local academic assessments, as well as the required assessments for Georgia students including alternative forms of assessment. The dates and locations for these workshops and meetings will be posted in individual site schedules and shared through electronic alerts such as e-mail and Remind 101 as well as phone calls. To assist parents with understanding the online student information system and other digital educational resources (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), MECHS will host workshops for parents. Dates and times for these workshops will be determined and announced by each MECHS site. MECHS has an established Governance Board comprised of Superintendents and community/business members to provide advice on all matters related to family engagement in Title I, Part A programs. MECHS will also encourage collaboration and participation with community partners by posting governance board meeting minutes, send the MECHS Newsletter to all who can sign up in our webpage, and increase participation by utilizing video conferencing technology to accommodate the schedules of these valuable partners.

***Of School Staff*** - MECHS will conduct trainings during the school year for Site Administrators and staff to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. These trainings will be redelivered to the faculty and staff of each MECHS site. MECHS will also host a training for appropriate staff and faculty that will focus on creating welcoming environments and improving two-way communication with families. To ensure that information related to district, site, parent programs, and activities is available to all parents, MECHS is required to send home and post online information for parents and family members in an understandable language and uniform format. At the beginning of the year, FELs will be trained on parent

## Mountain Education Charter High School Sites:

- Bartow Site
- Bowman Site
- Dawson Site
- Fannin Site
- Forsyth Site
- Gilmer Site
- Habersham Site
- Hall Site
- Hill Center Site
- Lumpkin Site
- Murray Site
- Pickens Site
- Rabun Site
- Stephens Site
- Union Site
- White Site

notifications and resources to be sent home in parents’ native language, where applicable, and providing interpreters at parent events. Information posted on the website will be translated to the extent practicable. MECHS will also utilize school phone call systems, the website, local news media, social media and other school message systems to post information for parents.

## Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, MECHS will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I program through an annual parent survey and the spring planning meetings. Beginning in February, MECHS will send home a survey and provide a link on the MECHS webpage for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on site social media webpages. In addition to the annual survey, each MECHS site will use the spring planning meetings to facilitate group discussions around the needs identified by parents of children eligible to receive Title I services to design strategies for more effective family engagement. MECHS will use the findings from the spring planning meetings and the survey results to design evidence-based strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement plan. Student academic achievement and parent involvement is tracked in multiple ways to identify strategies that may be working versus those that are not.

### Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district parent involvement coordinator will communicate and collaborate with the district office to ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children including providing information and school reports in a language parents can understand.

### Mark Your Calendars

#### *For Parents*

Annual Parent Survey

February, 2020

Annual Parent Meeting

Feb/March/April, 2020 –  
Local MECHS site

Electronic Input Opportunity

August-May 2020

#### *For Schools*

Student Services Meetings

Monthly August-April  
Local MECHS sites

Family Engagement Liaison

Meetings

August, 2019  
December, 2020  
May, 2020

### Adoption

This parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel at spring planning meetings and the annual electronic input opportunity.

This policy was revised by Mountain Education Charter High School on August 1, 2019 and will be in effect for the 2019-2020 academic school year. MECHS will distribute this policy in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 1, 2018.