



Gray Station Middle School

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What does it mean to be a Title I school?

Title I, Part A (Title I) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA,) provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards.

Title I programs also seek to include strategies that support and increase parental involvement. All Title I schools must work with parents to create a written parental involvement policy.

Description of School Parental Involvement Policy

What is a School Parental Involvement Policy?

The School Parental Involvement Policy is an outline of the many different ways that parents can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote improved learning. Our policy at Gray Station Middle School will establish the school's expectations for parental involvement and describe how the school will implement a number of specific parental involvement activities. Through contributions and involvement of parents in creating our policy, we hope to reach our common goal of improving student achievement. It is our desire to promote student learning at school and at home.

How is the policy developed?

GSMS welcomes input from parents and comments regarding the policy at any time. Parental feedback will be used to revise the policy. Stakeholders will have several opportunities to offer input and feedback through various avenues, including: BST, grade-level meetings, GSMS School Council, and others. Parents may also offer ideas and suggestions (in writing) for the local Title I plan through surveys and contact with the Principal or Parent Coordinator. Parents are encouraged to provide suggestions as to how funding, allotted to parental involvement activities, is spent at GSMS. At the beginning of the school year, parents will be invited to attend a Title I annual meeting where the Parental Involvement Policy, the School-wide Title I Plan, and the School Compact will be reviewed.

How is the policy distributed to parents and community members and how is it periodically updated?

The Title I Parental Involvement Policy will be posted on the school website for any community member to access. All activities related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities will be sent to parents in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand. Parents will receive a written copy of our plan. If the plan is not satisfactory to the parents of the participating children, they may submit comments on the plan and return it to the Principal or Parent Coordinator.

Gray Station Middle School
Title I Parental Involvement Policy 2016-2017

2016-2017 District Goals

- Increase student achievement and success
- Increase student, staff, and stakeholder engagement
- Maintain high quality personnel
- Increase organizational effectiveness

2016-2017 School Goals

- Academically Challenging Environment
- Higher Order Thinking Skills
- Standards Based Classroom
- Differentiated Instruction
- Formative Assessments
- Student Use of Available Technology

School-Parent Compacts

As part of Parental Involvement Plan, Gray Station and our families will develop a school-parent compact. This compact must be developed jointly with parents for all children participating in Title I activities, services, and programs. This compact explains how parents and teachers will work together to make sure all our students reach grade-level standards. The compact will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students and teachers. The school-parent compacts are kept with each child's homeroom teacher. The compact will be reviewed during conferences.

Parent Involvement Program and Activities

Gray Station Middle School will host events throughout the school year to improve parental involvement to help us reach our common goal of improved student achievement. GSMS will conduct activities that will support a stronger partnership among the school, parents, and the community as a means of improving student academic achievement. Gray Station will flexibly plan meetings, activities, and workshops at different times so that our parents will be able to attend as many events as possible. If survey results deem childcare or other services are needed, then every effort will be taken to meet those needs for all meetings and events. Title I events will include, but are not limited to the following:

Annual Title I Meeting

Gray Station Middle School will hold an annual Fall Title I meeting before November 1st. Parents are invited and strongly encouraged to attend. This annual meeting will explain the Title I program and its requirements to parents. Parents will also be informed of their right to be involved in this program and in the decision of how parental involvement funds are spent. The Parent Involvement Policy, school-parent Compact, School-wide Plan, and the district's Parent Involvement Policy will be discussed and reviewed.

Parent Workshops

Workshop topics will be determined by analyzing school data, needs assessment surveys, and parent surveys. Parents will be offered the time to complete additional surveys after each workshop to solicit ideas for future workshops.

Professional Learning for Educators

GSMS will provide multiple opportunities throughout the year to provide professional learning to our teachers which will focus on building relationships with parents and students.

Transition Programs

The Parent Coordinator, Instructional Coach, and administrators will work with grade levels to provide assistance with transitioning students to the next grade level. The Parent Coordinator and Counselor will plan and implement visits to acquaint GE, DFE, and TWE students and parents with the curriculum of GSMS to ensure an easier transition from elementary school to middle school.

Additional Opportunities

In addition, GSMS will provide, through open house events and grade curriculum nights, information about the State's academic content standards, student academic achievement standards, and the State's local academic assessments. These meetings will also address how parents can best monitor their child's progress and effectively communicate with their child's teachers. GSMS will provide various materials and training to help parents work with their children to advance achievement.



Definition of Parental Involvement

Parental involvement will be a centerpiece of Title I at GSMS. Parental involvement is specifically defined as the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

- that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- 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, and
- the planning and implementation of other activities as described in this plan.

You Have Our Support!

Gray Station Middle School will take the following measures to promote and support families as an important foundation of school in order to strengthen the school and reach our school goals. We will –

- Ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is published in English and any other language upon request, posted on the school website and included in the monthly school news letter for all parents.
- Conduct professional learning on the importance of parent involvement and effective strategies for staff to communicate and build partnerships with parents.
- Work with our families to develop relevant trainings and helpful presentations to educate our staff on the importance of parental involvement.
- Provide necessary materials for families at conferences, meetings, and activities to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement.
- Collaborate with community leaders and business groups to increase participation and awareness of the school parental involvement plan and activities.
- Offer parent classes to help further enhance their various education backgrounds.
- Listen and respond to parents' requests for additional support for parental involvement activities.
- Involve families in the decisions regarding how reserved funds are allotted for Parental Involvement activities.
- Maintain a Parent Resource Center.

At Gray Station Middle School we strongly believe that all of our students should be provided with creative and differentiated learning experiences provided by highly-qualified educators based on a rigorous curriculum. The results of our state assessments and our system's performance on those assessments will be made available to parents through the school's testing coordinator. These results will also be posted in the Parent Resource Center and/or the school's Data Room.

Families are encouraged to offer suggestions for improvements when assessments are not meeting the standards set by the state. Assessment results will be made available to the community through public forums. These forums may include our local school board meetings, the *Jones County News*, school newsletters, GSMS School Council Meetings, and the Jones County School System's website. GSMS will provide regular opportunities for meetings to formulate suggestions if parents request such meetings.



Additional Parent Resources

Gray Station has obtained many resources that are available for parents and has established a Parent Resource Center at our school. The Parent Resource Center is located in our main office and is accessible from 7:45.m. to 4:00 p.m. each school day. The resource center houses various materials on a variety of topics including ideas of how parents can work with their child and school to improve their child's achievement. If you need additional resources that you do not find there, please let the Parent Coordinator, know and she will assist you in gathering the materials you need.

In addition to these resources, the Parent Resource Center will post our monthly newsletter, the Georgia DOE Parent Engagement newsletters, which contain curriculum information, parenting assistance, and other instructional connections.

Get Involved!

It is our deep desire at Gray Station Middle school to build bridges between the home and the school. Together, we can construct collaboration among parents, teachers, and the community that will advance student achievement to the next level. Success for All can be achieved! The main goal of improved parental involvement at GSMS is to deepen the connection between the school and our families. All parents are encouraged to participate in activities and to attend workshops as they become available.

A paper copy of our school newsletter will be sent to families periodically, as well as,electronically via email. In addition, information about family education and involvement opportunities will be featured in flyers, on our digital marquee, via the "One Call" System, and on the school web-site.

Information concerning opportunities for organizations and businesses to work with parents and teachers will be provided through the Parent Coordinator, staff members, administrators, School Council, and parents. To aide in the facilitation of community and business partnerships with the school, the Title I Parent Coordinator will serve as a member of various organizations created to help connect families with resources they may need. One such organization is the Jones County Family Connection, which is an organization designed to serve families in the community through education and resources.



Success for All through

Academic Achievement

Responsible Behavior and

Ethical Character