

Bennett's Mill Middle School

Title One Parent Involvement Policy

Bennett's Mill Middle School (BMMS) affirms and encourages the right of parents and legal guardians of children being served in activities funded by Title I the opportunities to participate in the planning, design, and implementation of the Title I program and its activities.

Throughout the school year, BMMS shall develop jointly with parents a written Parent Involvement Policy as well as a school-parent compact through input received from parent meetings (held annually in the fall) and electronic surveys conducted at least once per semester (written format of surveys available upon request). This policy, which will be updated periodically, shall be distributed to the parents of participating children at parent meetings and upon request. BMMS Parents may also pick up a copy of our current Parent Involvement in our office or Parent Resource Center. In addition, it will be made available to our local community through our website. Bennett's Mill shall also encourage parent involvement through written information distributed to parents through the school, parent contracts, website information, and other resources. Likewise, BMMS strives to involve parents and other stakeholders in the joint development of the school-parent compact that outlines how parents, students, and the school will be responsible for supporting student learning.

The parent involvement policy will be distributed at each Parent Involvement Meeting and posted on the school website providing parents and community stakeholders with an opportunity to provide comments and feedback. At each parent meeting, parents are provided with a copy of the Fayette County Board of Education Parent Involvement Policy as well as a copy of the BMMS Parent Involvement Policy. We discuss at each meeting the value of parents and their support of our programs and allow a time for parents to ask questions about not only our PI Plan but also the programs we offer, resources we utilize, and any other areas of concern. During this time, we address any terminology that parents may not be familiar with and clarify any components which may not be clearly stated in an effort to make our parent involvement policy and other resources as concise and jargon-free as possible.

The Title I coordinator for the school takes all recommendations from each meeting and utilizes them in adjusting the Parent Involvement Plan for upcoming school years and future parent meetings. In this way, we acknowledge that the needs of parents and our students are ever-changing, and what is effective one school year may need to be adjusted for future school years.

Bennett's Mill Middle School shall conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual Parent Meeting at a convenient time (multiple times, whenever feasible) to evaluate the content and effectiveness of the parent involvement policy and to determine whether there has been increased participation and whether there are barriers to greater participation. Parents of participating students will be invited and encouraged to attend through invitations sent home with grading reports, emails, and phone calls. Regularly scheduled meetings will be another tool used to inform parents of their school's participation under Title I and to explain Title I, its requirements, and their right to be involved. Resources and items discussed will be mailed home to parents not able to attend upon request.

During these annual meetings, data will be obtained from discussions and/or parent surveys. All unsatisfactory comments regarding the Plan will be collected and submitted to the Local Title I Coordinator. The findings of the evaluations will be utilized in school improvement and revising the School/Parental Involvement Policy for upcoming school years. In so doing, we involve parents in ongoing and yearly assessments to evaluate the effectiveness of our parent involvement initiatives as a measure of performance of our school.

Our local school community has the opportunity to provide input on our Parent Involvement Plan through our website at any time. Because we value the input of our entire school population and community, invitations for Parent Participation in Parent Involvement Meetings are sent specifically to our Title I students first and then advertised to the entire school population through newsletters, emails, or other notifications.

Bennett's Mill shall provide assistance and support needed to assist parents in participating in Parent Involvement meetings and activities and in the educational achievement of their students. These resources include but are not limited to:

1. Providing timely information to parents in written form and/or through regular meetings on topics including: Title I programs in the school; results of standardized assessments and school performance profiles; assessments used to measure student progress and proficiency levels expected of students; individual student assessment results and interpretation of those results; description and explanation of school curriculum; requirements for parent involvement. The topics for these meetings and for the information relayed are determined by parent surveys from the previous school year or from prior Parent Involvement Meetings.
2. Timely responses to parent suggestions in the form of email, phone calls, parent letters, and the likes.
3. BMMS staff will explain the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, volunteering in their child's classroom, and participating in the decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time (where appropriate).
4. Providing materials and training to make parents aware of ways that they can monitor their children's progress and work with educators to improve the performance of their children. We also inform parents of ways that they can participate in decisions relating to the education of their children. Further, we will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement and coordinate resources on such topics. Handouts on topics such as Infinite Campus, internet safety, and Georgia Online Assessment will be sent to parents in packets with student report cards and/or progress reports throughout the year. Again, the topics available in these materials and in these training sessions are the direct result of feedback provided by parents in surveys or prior Parent Meetings.
5. BMMS will provide assistance in understanding National Education Goals; content standards and student performance standards; school improvement goals; state and local assessments.
6. Because BMMS serves a significant population of students whose family speaks a different language at home, we have individuals on our staff who are willing to translate Title I Parent Information and then send that information to parents in a format and, to the extent feasible, in a language that the parents can understand. It is our goal to provide full opportunities for the participation of Limited English Proficiency parents, parents of migratory children, and parents with disabilities information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities in a language and format such parents understand. We also purchase bilingual materials for our Parent Resource Center as appropriate and available.
7. BMMS provides information to parents regarding the requirements of Title I, Part A. This information includes the components of a Targeted Assistance Program. At each parent involvement or annual meeting, we explain the criteria for selection of students for Title I based on the data and trends we observed in previous school years. During this discussion (and also through

parent surveys), we welcome feedback regarding programs offered and potential improvements to those programs.

8. Describing the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served under Title I to meet the State's student performance standards.
9. Our staff conducts activities that enable parents to learn about topics including, but not limited to, child development, educational assessments, strategies for helping students to be successful, child rearing issues, family support, and the likes. These activities are designed to help parents become full partners in the education of their children. In addition, we will advertise on our marquee and/or using posters and flyers any such courses offered throughout our county (including STEP - Systematic Training for Effective Parenting, Love and Logic).
10. Through our Parent Resource Center, we will provide resources to parents in a variety of formats on a wide range of topics. Topics for these resources will be determined each year by the input given from parents in parent conferences, Parent Involvement Meetings, parent surveys, teacher surveys, and student surveys. To meet the needs of as many families as possible, resources will be provided in pamphlet form, books, workbooks, audio, DVD, and other formats as available. By providing such resources, we create opportunities for parents to learn about child development and childrearing issues beginning at birth, that are designed to help parents become full partners in the education of their children.
11. To improve the function of our Parent Resource Center and enable parents to easily use it, our Parent Resource Center will also provide activities for younger siblings to do while parents browse the resources. We will further provide computer access through the Parent Resource Center for those families who may not have access to computers and internet resources from home.
12. Because we value the input and participation of our parents, we will make every effort to provide reasonable support for parental involvement activities. As parents request or as BMMS deems appropriate or necessary, we will schedule multiple sessions of meetings/activities using a flexible meeting schedule (such as morning or evening meetings), provide childcare in the form of appropriate activities for younger siblings, or home visits upon request in order to eliminate parent involvement barriers so that all families have access and opportunity to be involved in the education of their students. In addition, we shall provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request.
13. In addition, all students and families in transition (i.e., homeless families) are identified by our guidance department. Our guidance counselors serve as liaisons between the school, the family, and community resources. In this capacity, they contact the families on a regular basis to inform them of resources available and determine needs that can be met through our school's CARE team or through the system's social workers or pupil services division. In doing so, we coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs with Title I, Migrant, Homeless, Vocational Education, and other programs to the extent feasible and appropriate.

BMMS will reserve a minimum of one percent of its Title One funding allocation for parent involvement. Parents will be involved in the decision regarding how funds are allotted for parental involvement through parent interest surveys. Survey result data will be used to determine subject matters for resources available for checkout or distribution in our Parent Resource Center as well as course offerings funded for students for the upcoming school year.

Because we value strong communication between the school and the families/community we serve, invitations, announcements of programs of Title I programs offered in our school, school performance profiles, student assessment information (such as testing dates and general information), and curriculum descriptions will be sent to parents in a variety of formats such as email through Infinite Campus, US Mail, website postings, student handbook in student agenda, school marquee, parent packets with grade reports, teacher syllabi, newsletters or individual phone calls.

Bennett's Mill will encourage and support activities which effectively involve parents and place a positive impact on student success. Such activities include, but are not limited to, volunteerism, school visits, Parent Involvement Meetings, school activities, extracurricular activities, Parent-Teacher Organizations, conferences, student performances, school assemblies, and the likes. We also involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner, in the planning, reviewing, and improvement of Title I programs (including Parent Involvement Policy and Schoolwide Program Plan).

Further, we encourage our teachers to join the school's PTO. We also offer training through our professional learning sessions each week and through faculty meetings as a means of educating teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners in an effort to build ties with home and school.

Our Partners in Education have done a remarkable job in providing resources for our students and parents such as refreshments at events, incentives for students to reward behavior and performance, customer service training for faculty, and the likes. In addition, parents, students, business partners, and other community stakeholders have joined with our school and our guidance department to host events such as Parenting Workshops, student assemblies, guest speaking events, and our annual Career Day event. Through such activities, we have and continue to develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities and to encourage the formation of partnerships between schools and local businesses that include a role for parents. The contributions of our community stakeholders have enabled us to bring both parents and community members into the school to join with us for student success.

It is our belief that parent involvement is crucial to the success of our students and our school as a whole. It is our hope that all parents feel welcome in our school and that they realize that they play an integral role in the education and development of their student. This plan will be revised following each Parent Involvement Meeting and survey sent home so that it continues to address the ever-changing needs of our students, their families, and our community.

Revised July 8, 2013