

AR
Mount Ida School District
P.O. Box 1230
Mount Ida AR 71957
870-867-2323

District Parent and Family Engagement Plan

***Please note: Your 20-21 plan has been populated below. Please make revisions or delete and paste your updated plan for 21-22.**

[Click to view Required Components Checklist](#)

District Name:	Mount Ida
Coordinator Name:	Melissa Austin
Plan Review/Revision Date:	6/7/2021
District Level Reviewer, Title	Nan Wilson. Federal Programs Coordinator

Committee Members, Role:

(Select "Repeat" to open more entry fields to add additional team members)

First Name	Last Name	Position
Brandy	Bradford	PTO President/Alumni
Deana	Cole	Parent/Board /Member/Community Member
Marci	Pearce	Parent
Bonnie	Carr	Alumni/Community Member
Donna	Duthrage	PTO/Parent
Jenna	Dougherty	Parent/Alumni/PTO

Committee Members, Role:

(Select "Repeat" to open more entry fields to add additional team members)

First Name	Last Name	Position
Melissa	Austin	Coordinator/Facilitator
Michael	White	Superintendent
Nan	Wilson	Federal Programs
Ron	McGuire	High School Principal
Donna	Whisenhunt	Elementary Principal
June	Davis	Alumni Coordinator

Committee Members, Role:

(Select "Repeat" to open more entry fields to add additional team members)

First Name	Last Name	Position
Shawna	Pantel	Parent

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1: Jointly Developed Expectations and Objectives

(Describe/List the District expectations and objectives for parent and family engagement. Describe/List how parents will be involved in the development of the district parent and family engagement policy. Describe/List how parents will be involved in the development and review of the School Improvement/Title I Schoolwide/Title I Targeted Assistance Plan and, if applicable, the Comprehensive Support and Improvement and the Targeted Support and Improvement plans. Describe/List how the District will submit to the State comments from parents who deem the LEA Plan unsatisfactory.)

Does the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the district will accomplish each of the required components?

Mount Ida School District will foster effective parental involvement strategies and support partnerships among school, parents, and the community to improve student achievement in the following ways:

- Develop and disseminate District Parental Engagement Policy. The Policy and Plans will be approved during the **July** board of directors meeting each year. It will be filed with the Department of Education and placed on the district website: <http://www.mountidaschools.com> by August 1 each year. Contact Nan Wilson, 867-2323.
- Place a parent-friendly summary/explanation of the parent and family engagement plan online and as a supplement to the student handbook. Signatures will be obtained from each parent acknowledging receipt of the Mount Ida School District Parent and Family Engagement Plan summary in the handbook and on the signature page that will be included in the Back-to-School Packet.
- Conduct an annual meeting in the spring to update policy for next year's Title I, Part A program. It will be held at the Elementary in May, 2022 at 5:15 in the elementary cafeteria. Contact Nan Wilson at 870-867-2323. High School meeting will be held in May, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school library. Contact Nan Wilson at 870-867-2323.
- Coordinate parental engagement activities with those of other programs. Parent-Teacher Organization monthly meetings are held each second Tuesday at the Bobby Barrett Elementary Cafeteria at 6:00 p.m. Contact Brandy Bradford, PTO President.
- Establish parental engagement contact person at each of the Title I, Part A schools. Elementary contact is Melissa Austin, 870-867-2661. Parent Center is located in the Elementary Library. It is open Mondays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. It provides information about programs and resources available to parents and families. A parent center list of after school programs and information will be published in the county newspaper or on website. Contact Melissa Austin at 870-867-2661. High school contact is Nan Wilson, 870-867-2771.
- Conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of the parental engagement policy. This will take place during the Parent Meeting held in May, 2022 at the Elementary, and at High school in May, 2022 Contact Nan Wilson at 870-867-2323.
- Develop district parental engagement committee to create a parental involvement policy and implement parental involvement activities as well as disseminate information to the community to promote parental engagement in the Title I, Part A schools. This committee will meet to review the School Improvement Plans, seek resources for educators and parents, and develop partnerships with local businesses and service groups. It will continue to recruit alumni for the advisory committee to provide advice and guidance for school improvement. Contact Michael White at 870-867-2323.
- Ensure that parents of children with disabilities or limited English proficiency have the same access as other parents including information in a language and form they can understand. Contact Ron McGuire at 870-867-2771 or Donna Whisenhunt at 870-867-2661.

- Involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under the Federal "Every Student Succeeds" Act.
 - Ensure adequate representation of parents and families of participating children in the the Parental Engagement process by sending home notes and letters in appropriate languages and contacting parents via school reach messages, Facebook, and District website. This has been a challenge the past few years due to Covid. Parents are being taught new ways to communicate with their teachers through Google Classroom and the importance of up-to-date email addresses for home-school connections.
 - The district tries its best to ensure the committees best represent a majority of the families in the district. The yearly survey asks parents to mark if they would be willing to serve on a committee in the future. They are invited to join the PTO as well.
 - The district will submit to the State the comments from parents who deem the schoolwide plan unsatisfactory. The Parent Coordinator and Federal Programs Director will review the comments with the Superintendent, who then submits them to the appropriate DESE personnel.
 - Improvement of Communication between district and parents continues to be a challenge due to COVID. More resources are being used to meet the needs of parents by doing home visits, welfare checks by administrators and other staff to promote better attendance of students.
 - Additional staff has been hired to help bridge the learning loss among our students.

2: Building Staff Capacity through Training and Technical Assistance

(Describe/List how the district will provide support and technical assistance to all its Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement practices, inclusive of school parent and family engagement policies/plans, school-parent compacts, and all Title I parent and family engagement requirements. Describe/List activities such as workshops, conferences, trainings, webinars, and online resources that will be used with school staff to build their capacity to work with parents as equal partners. Include information about how the district and/or schools will provide information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to parents in a format, to the extent practicable, and in a language that parents can understand.)

Does the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the district will accomplish each of the required components?

Mount Ida School District will provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement in the following ways:

- Conduct ongoing site visits to observe parental engagement practices. Provide opportunities for parents to communicate with principals and other administrative staff. Contact Principal Ron McGuire at 870-867-2771 or Donna Whisenhunt at 870-867-2661.
- Foster a responsive, open door policy that is developed by staff and parents. Contact Principals, Ron McGuire at 870-867-2771 or Donna Whisenhunt at 870-867-2661.
- Establish opportunities for parents and teachers to share information about students' strengths and learning styles. Contact Principals Ron McGuire at 870-867-2771 or Donna Whisenhunt at 870-867-2661.
- Announce "Open House" night at the beginning of each school year by posting on district website and publish in local paper. Elementary Open House, August 10, 2021. Contact Principal Donna Whisenhunt at 870-867-2661. High School Open House, August 12, 2021. Contact Ron McGuire at 870-867-2771.
- Encourage immediate contact between parents and teachers when concerns arise. Contact Principals Ron McGuire at 870-867-2771 or Donna Whisenhunt at 870-867-2661.
- Request homeroom parent volunteers to organize holiday events and calling chains. Each classroom teacher will

seek a homeroom parent by sending home a checklist of tasks parents are willing to perform.

- Enhance the awareness and skills of teachers, pupil service personnel, principals, and staff in reaching out to, communicating with, and working with parents as equal partners.
- Ensure, to the extent possible, that information is sent home in a language and form parents can understand. Contact principals Ron McGuire at 870-867-2771 or Donna Whisenhunt at 870-867-2661.
- Put activities and information on the district website: www.mountidaschools.com and each school provide information on their school Facebook pages of activities and programs.
- Teachers and staff continue to have PD on Google Classroom and other methods to communicate with homebound students and parents.

Elementary Activities:

Plan activities to encourage parental engagement.

Schedule conferences as needed after report cards and progress notes are sent home. Parents may call the elementary at 870-867-2661 to schedule an appointment.

Schedule four parent-teacher conferences per school year.

Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences: September 14 and November 16, 2021 for high school

October 26 & 28, 2021 for elementary

Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences: February 10 and April 21, 2022 for high school

March 29 & 31, 2022 for elementary

For questions, contact Principal Ron McGuire at 870-867-2771, or Donna Whisenhunt at 870-867-2661.

Schedule conferences as needed after report cards and progress reports are sent home. Parents may call the high school office at 870-867-2771 to schedule an appointment.

Monitor each Title I, Part A School to ensure that each school performs the following tasks:

- Develop parental engagement policy.
- Offer flexible meeting times. Meetings will be set at different times to accommodate parents as needed.
- Provide information to parents about the school's programs, include parent information guide. A Parent section is included on the main page of the district web site: www.mountidaschools.com to include Parental Engagement Plans link, Student Handbook link, and monthly Parent Newsletters. Parents will get weekly student work for parents to review and comment on. Counselor Jackie Hall will communicate with parents regarding positive student behavior and achievement regularly. Contact Mrs. Hall at 8780-867-0127.
- Develop and use the School-Parent Compact that is signed by student, teacher, and parent at beginning of school year.
- Provide training for parents in working with their child to improve academic achievement, to include training on the home access system in order to have real-time access to their child's attendance and achievement. Contact counselors Jackie Hall at 870-867-0127 or Shirell White at 870-867-3233.
- Ensure professional development requirements are met for teachers and administrators by providing minimum professional development hours for teachers and administrators as required by law (2 hours on a 4-year rotation and every fourth year thereafter).
- Provide training at least annually for volunteers within the first month of the new school year in August.
- Parent participation has seen a drop in the years of COVID, when parents were not coming to school campus. Virtual communications by computer and phone have been method of communications. This has caused a significant reduction in committee participation as well. PTO meetings have seen a reduction in attendance, so some meetings have been held off campus or in an outside area.

3: Building Parent Capacity

(Describe/List activities, such as workshops, conferences, classes, online resources, and any equipment or other materials that may be necessary to support parents in helping their student's academic success. If applicable, describe how each discretionary item your district and parents chose will be implemented.)

Does the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the district will accomplish each of the required components?

Mount Ida School District will build the school's capacity for strong parental involvement by employing the following methods:

- Provide information to participating parents in such areas as national, state, and local education goals, including parents' rights as defined in Title I, Part A. Title I Parent Meeting and PTO Meetings will be held to keep parents informed. Statements attesting to the school's commitment to parental engagement will be distributed with the student handbooks at Open House on August 10 & 12, 2021. A report on the schools' academic standing will be given during Open House. Title I School meetings will be held August 30, 2021.
- Assist in the development of parent engagement groups at each school. Title I School meetings will be held at each school on August 30, 2021, to inform parents of the school's Title I Program and their rights. Planned meetings at each school will be held to inform parents about what students will be learning in each subject at each grade level. Teachers will create curriculum pamphlets. Contact Ron McGuire at 870-867-2771 or Donna Whisenhunt at 870-867-2661.
- Encourage the formation of partnerships between schools and local businesses that includes roles for parents. Parent and local businesses will be contacted to volunteer at times that are flexible with their schedules. Contact Parent Facilitators Melissa Austin at 870-867-2661 or Nan Wilson at 870-867-2771.
- Provide resources for parents to learn about child development, child rearing practices, and academic strategies that are designed to help parents become full partners in the education of their child. Contact Counselor Jackie Hall at 870-867-0137, Counselor Shirell White at 870-867-3233, or PTO President Brandy Wingfield.
- Involve parents through an annual survey to improve school effectiveness. A parental survey will be given at the District Parent Meeting in May. Ways to improve school effectiveness will be included in the survey. From the survey, a Parental Engagement Program Evaluation will be done. Contact Nan Wilson, Federal Programs Coordinator at 870-867-2323.
- Approve reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental engagement activities.
- Provide any reasonable support for parental involvement at the request of participating Title I, Part A schools. Parent Committee will be invited to review the school and district School Improvement Plans before submission on August 1, 2021. Contact Nan Wilson Federal Programs Coordinator at 870-867-2323. Title I Parent meeting will be held at both schools in August.
- Counselor provides training to Seniors and their parents on the importance of, and how to fill out the FAFSA form each Fall.
- Elementary had a successful "drive-through" Parent Night last spring with great participation by parents and students.

4: Reservation and Evaluation

(Describe/List how the district will share with parents and family members the budget for parent and family engagement activities and programs and how parents and family members will be involved in providing input into how the funds are used. If the district does not receive a Title I, Part A allocation greater than \$500,000,

then the district is not required to include a description of its Reservation of Funds. If a reservation is required, then a minimum of 90% of that 1% must go to the schools, with priority given to high-need schools. Describe/List actions for how the annual evaluation will be conducted, identifying who will be responsible for conducting it, and explaining what role parents and family members will play.)

Does the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the district will accomplish each of the required components?

The Mount Ida School District will conduct, with the involvement of parents, ongoing evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy as it relates to strategies for increasing parental participation and identifying barriers to greater participation in the following ways:

- Survey parents annually, including questions to identify barriers to parental engagement. Survey will be given at the District Title I Parent Meeting in May, 2022. Program evaluation will be completed with results from the parent survey. Contact Nan Wilson, Federal Programs Coordinator at 870-867-2323. Results of the survey were decreased due to lack of participation among parents. Most needed areas of the survey continue to be: more timely communication between teachers and parents (same for last three years). Parents were most satisfied with the Facebook page information from both elem. and high school Facebook pages with pictures of student activities during the school day that parents had to miss due to COVID.
- Provide an opportunity for the parents to assist in the development of the evaluation procedures, including analysis of data collected. During the summer, Parents will be invited to come to the School Improvement planning meeting to discuss results of the surveys and Program Evaluation recommendations. Contact Nan Wilson, 870-867-2323.
- Develop procedures for collecting parent participation documentation through sign-in lists for workshops, meetings, and conferences; schedules; brochures; meeting notes; and other means as appropriate throughout the school year. All documentation will be kept in a central location with Federal Programs.
- Use findings from evaluation process to make recommendations to each participating school for parental engagement policy revision. This will be done during School Improvement planning meetings with input from parents that will be invited to attend.
- Use the findings from the evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement.
- Develop and disseminate an annual parent activity evaluation report to share with parents, staff and the community. Newspaper clippings will show documentation of the Annual Alumni Reunion/Meeting held each September. (Sept. 19, 2020) A report will be given by Superintendent Michael White at the Alumni Meeting.
- The District will review and approve the plan for each school by July and place the School Plans on the District website by August 1 of each school year.

5: Coordination

(Describe/List how the district will coordinate with other organizations, businesses, and community partners to provide additional supports and resources to families such as public preschool programs or organizations to help students transition to elementary, middle, high, and postsecondary schools or careers.)

Does the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the district will accomplish each of the required components?

The Mount Ida School District will involve parents in the joint development of the district Title I Application under section 1112 (SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN) in the following ways:

- Recruit parents to serve on District School Improvement Plan committee to help develop the Title I Application. Parents meet during the summer on the School Improvement planning committee and again for the Peer Review of the completed School Improvement plans before they are submitted or approved by the board of education. Contact Nan Wilson, Federal Programs, 870-867-2323.
- Recruit parents for a district Parent Advisory Committee which is held each Fall. Meeting agenda and minutes will

provide documentation.

- Encourage the formation of partnerships between the district and local businesses that includes roles for parents.
- Involve parents through an annual survey to improve district effectiveness.
- Local banks helped with School Supply donations.
- Local dentist offices provide dental checks and programs free of charge to all elementary students.
- County Home extension agent provides demonstrations to students on life skills throughout the year, and parent food preparation classes at night at the high school FACS classroom.

(Find complete guidance on the [DESE Parent and Family Engagement Requirements](#) webpage.)

ADE Reviewer Responses by Section

Section 1 - Jointly Developed Expectations and Outcomes

- Federal Compliance
 - State Compliance
-

Comments:

9/14/2021 KBergh. Section meets required components, and process for handling of comments from parents who deem the plan unsatisfactory was added at state request. In response to suggestions offered, District also added explanation of how communications/plan were impacted by COVID.

Thanks!

10/2/2020 KWilson. Section meets required components.

Section 2 - Building Staff Capacity through Training and Technical Assistance

- Federal Compliance
 - State Compliance
-

Comments:

9/14/2021 KBergh. Section meets required components. In response to suggestions offered, District added text about how participation has been impacted by COVID.

Thanks!

10/2/2020 KWilson. Section meets required components.

Section 3 - Building Parent Capacity

- Federal Compliance
 - State Compliance
-

Comments:

9/14/2021 KBergh. Section meets required components. In response to suggestions offered, Districted added text about training in FAFSA preparation, as a specific training topic, and that parent drive-through event was successful.

Thanks!

10/2/2020 KWilson. Section meets required components.

Section 4 - Reservation and Evaluation

- Federal Compliance
 - State Compliance
-

Comments:

9/14/2021 KBergh. Section meets required components. In response to suggestions offered, District added text about survey indicating need for "more timely communications," and how they are addressing this feedback (positive parent/family response to Facebook postings).

Thanks!

10/2/2020 KWilson. Section meets required components.

Section 5 - Coordination

- Federal Compliance
 - State Compliance
-

Comments:

9/14/2021 KBergh. Section meets required components. In response to suggestions offered, District added some specific community partners, and the support they offer.

Thanks!

10/2/2020 KWilson. Section meets required components.