

Marion Intermediate School Parent and Family Engagement Plan

Marion Intermediate School understands the importance of involving parents and the community as a whole in promoting higher student achievement and general good will between the school and those it serves. Therefore, Marion Intermediate School shall strive to develop and maintain the capacity for meaningful and productive parental and community involvement that will result in partnerships that are mutually beneficial to the school, students, parents, and the community. To achieve such ends, the school shall work to

1. Involve parents and the community in the development and improvement of Title I programs for the school;
2. Have a coordinated involvement program where the involvement activities of the school enhance the involvement strategies of other programs such as Head Start, HIPPI, Parents as Partners, Parents as Teachers, ABC, ABC for School Success, area Pre-K programs, and Even Start;
3. Explain to parents and the community the State's content and achievement standards, State and local student assessments and how the school's curriculum is aligned with the assessments and how parents can work with the school to improve their child's academic achievement;
4. Provide parents with the materials and training they need to be better able to help their child achieve. The school may use parent resource centers or other community based organizations to foster parental involvement and provide literacy and technology training to parents.
5. Educate school staff, with the assistance of parents, in ways to work and communicate with parents and to know how to implement parent involvement programs that will promote positive partnerships between the school and parents;
6. Keep parents informed about parental involvement programs, meetings, and other activities they could be involved in. Such communication shall be, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand;
7. Find ways to eliminate barriers that work to keep parents from being involved in their child's education. This may include providing transportation and child care to enable parents to participate, arranging meetings at a variety of times, and being creative with parent/teacher conferences;
8. Find and modify other successful parent and community involvement programs to suit the needs of our school;
9. Train parents to enhance and promote the involvement of other parents;
10. Provide reasonable support for other parental involvement activities as parents may reasonably request.

To help promote an understanding of each party's role in improving student learning, Marion Intermediate School shall develop a compact that outlines the responsibilities of parents, students, and the school staff in raising student academic achievement and in building the partnerships that will enable students to meet the State's academic standards.

Marion Intermediate School shall convene an annual meeting, or several meetings at varying times if necessary to adequately reach parents of participating students, to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I, its requirements regarding parental involvement, and the parent's right to be involved in the education of their child.

Marion Intermediate School shall, at least annually, involve parents in reviewing the school's Title I program and parental involvement policy in order to help ensure their continued improvement. Marion Intermediate will encourage parental involvement by providing opportunities for parents to interact with school programs and events.

Marion Intermediate School will encourage parental involvement.

The following actions will be used by Marion Intermediate School to implement the parental engagement policy:

Action 1: Parents will be encouraged to attend Back to School night to learn about curriculum, plans and procedures, student achievement, and parent involvement opportunities.

Action 2: Administrators and teachers will receive the appropriate hours in effective parent involvement staff development as required by Arkansas law.

Action 3: A survey will be sent home to gather data concerning parental involvement at the end of the school year. The survey results for 2017-18 indicate successful efforts at increasing parental involvement but do acknowledge that barriers exist in making parents feel comfortable in school. Efforts will be continued in improving parental involvement and year end surveys will continue to be used.

Action 4: Marion School District will continue to seek information from the community concerning resources to strengthen family and educational goals.

Action 5: The MIS School Parent Advisory Committee/Volunteer Committee will seek ways to involve parents at MIS through activities during the school day. The committee is chaired by the parent involvement facilitator. A volunteer resource book will be maintained by the parent involvement facilitator. Parents will utilize the online tool signup.com to maintain active participation in school functions held throughout the year.

Action 6: The Parent Lending Library located in the school lobby will be updated and stocked with literature for parents to check out.

Action 7: Marion School District will hold two parent/ teacher conference nights each year. Parents and teachers will discuss achievement test results and academic progress, IEPS and AIPS and behavior concerns.

Action 8: Provide instruction to a parent on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment.

Action 9: MIS will engage in other activities determined by the school to help a parent assist in his or her child's learning, such as weekly communication.

Action 10: Parents, faculty and students will sign the Parent/Student/School compact as a part of the Marion Intermediate School handbook at the beginning of the student's enrollment. The compact will be explained to parents on an individual basis by the teacher during open house and/or parent conferences.

Action 11: Parents receive informational packets at the beginning of the school year including a variety of information to design to benefit them and their child. New students will receive these at the time they enroll. Materials and supplies will be purchased as necessary to support the school's parental involvement activities.

Action 12: Parenting tips and suggestions are posted on the MIS webpage along with calendars, school handbook, menus, faculty contact information, and school supply lists.

Action 13: MIS will keep an updated Facebook page notifying the school community about events and other school related information.

Action 14: Remind 101 and School Messenger will be used to keep parents and other stakeholders aware of events taking place in the building in a timely way.

This policy shall be part of the school's Title I plan and shall be distributed to parents of the district's students and provided, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Parental Information and Resource Centers

The Center for Effective Parenting serves as the Arkansas State Parent Information & Resource Center (PIRC). Information for the Arkansas State PIRC can be found at <http://www.parenting-ed.org>.

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