



Pickens County Middle School
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Parent Involvement Plan
Revised on August 31, 2017
2017-2018 School Year

What is the Parent Involvement Plan?

This is a plan that describes how Pickens County Middle School will provide opportunities to improve parent engagement to support student learning. Pickens County Middle School values the contributions and involvement of parents in order to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement and of creating opportunities for parents to participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.

How is it developed/revised?

Pickens County Middle School welcomes parent input and comments at any time regarding this plan and the Title I School-wide Plan. PCMS involves parents in the development of this plan, the School-wide Plan, and the use of parent involvement funds. All parent feedback will be considered in the revision of all plans. This Parent Involvement Plan is posted on our school website for parents to view and send feedback throughout the year. We also distribute an annual survey asking parents for their review of our Title I Program, as well as all plans. This survey helps to guide how our parent involvement funds are spent. Parents can also give feedback during our annual Pickens County Parent Action Committee meetings. The Parent Involvement Plan is updated annually to reflect the changing needs of the school and the parents. If the Title I Schoolwide Plan is not satisfactory to parents, parent comments will be submitted to the district.

Who is it for?

All students participating in the Title I, Part A Program and their families are both encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this Parent Involvement Plan. Pickens County Middle School will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents with limited English skills, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.

Where is it available?

The Parent Involvement Plan will be sent home with students in their Title I packets in the fall of each school year, posted on the school website, available at all schools, available at Title I Meetings, annual Title I events, and at the Pickens County Parent Action Committee meetings.

What is Title I?

Title I is designed to support state and local school reform efforts tied to challenging state academic standards in order to reinforce and enhance efforts to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support parental involvement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with all parents a written parental involvement plan.

Let's Get Together!

Pickens County Middle School will host the following events to build the capacity for strong parental involvement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. Notices and invitations will be sent home with students, published in the *Pickens County Progress*, posted on FaceBook, Twitter, and the PCMS web site, and transmitted via email and an all-call phone notice to inform families of these parent engagement opportunities.

- School Advisory Council: This committee of parents and teachers meets quarterly to review the school improvement plan and student achievement data.
- Open House: Parents and students are able to meet their teacher and briefly learn about grade-level expectations.
- Annual Title I Meeting: Please come for an evening of learning and sharing about our Title I Program including our School Parent Involvement Plan, Parent/School/ Student Compact, the Title I School-wide Plan, how your parent involvement funds are spent, information regarding the Georgia Standards of Excellence and the Georgia Milestones, the curriculum used at the school, and other Title I requirements. This meeting will be held on October 10, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
- Parent meeting to provide the following: content specific information, homework help, conference sign-up, safety tips from the school-resource officer, middle school issues presented by the school counselor.
- Pep rally for parents and families to recognize student athletes and fine arts students.
- Individual student academic assessment results are sent home with a flyer which explains the results.
- Honors/Awards Programs: Designed to celebrate student success in academics, behavior, and attendance – come celebrate these achievements with students and staff.

- Parent Conference Meetings: Parents are encouraged to schedule conferences to discuss their student's progress, accomplishments, and any areas that may need improvement. Students are encouraged to attend conferences in order to self-advocate.
- Parent meetings and events are scheduled at various times (mornings, afternoons, and evenings) in various formats (large group events and individualized conferences).
- Transition events are scheduled to prepare students for 6th grade. Students visit the school for a tour and orientation. Families are invited to attend a transition night where they learn about the school and have a tour. Sixth grade students are invited to a summer team building day. To prepare students for high school, students attend a career fair at the high school. High school representatives visit PCMS to talk about course offerings and registration; the high school also hosts parent nights sharing the same information. To promote future learning, our 8th grade students go to Chattahoochee Technical College for a visit.
- Curriculum nights are held where the curriculum is discussed, strategies are shared, and materials are provided for families to use at home to support student achievement.

Parent Involvement at Pickens County Middle School

Pickens County Middle School believes parent involvement means the participation of parents in meaningful, two-way communication to support student academic achievement both in school and at home, as well as other school activities, including ensuring:

- Parents play an integral role in their child's learning.
- Parents are active participants in their child's education at school and at home.
- Parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making opportunities and as participants on advisory committees.
- Parents are involved in other activities as described in this plan.



Our Commitment to Parent Involvement

Pickens County Middle School is committed to parent involvement and will do the following to help ensure the academic achievement of our students:

1. Welcome all families
2. Communicate effectively
3. Support students' success
4. Advocate for each child
5. Partner with parents
6. Collaborate with our community

Pickens County Middle School is Reaching Out

Pickens County Middle School will take the following measures to promote and support parents as important partners in strengthening and reaching school goals. We will:

- Ensure information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is published in English and other languages as needed, posted on the school website, and various forms of social media, and included in newsletters.
- Educate staff members on strategic communication skills that will foster positive relationships with parents, in the value and contributions of parents that will support learning, and coordinate parent programs that build ties between home and school.
- Share information via the school website, social media, and newsletters to help parents understand the school's academic standards/assessments, to assist parents in monitoring their child's progress, and to work with educators ensuring students' academic success.
- Communicate regularly regarding school-wide events and activities through phone messages, social media, school website, and/or flyers.
- Provide materials, as appropriate, to assist parents in working with their child to improve academic achievement.

- Work with parents to inform staff members of the importance of effective communication and parental involvement via newsletters and staff meetings.
- Collaborate with community leaders, business groups, and local residents to increase participation and awareness of school-parent involvement practices and activities.
- Listen and respond to parents' requests for additional support with parent involvement activities and/or additional meetings.

School-Parent-Student Compact

As part of this plan, Pickens County Middle School and our parents will develop a school/parent/student compact, which is an agreement that parents, teachers and students will develop collaboratively. The compact explains how parents and teachers will work together to help all students achieve grade-level standards. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students and teachers through meetings, parent surveys, and the school website.