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GARRETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS TITLE I

District Parent Involvement Plan

The Garrett County Public School System's Title I Office will plan and support programs, activities, and procedures in all Title I schools for involving parents. The plan outlines efforts to better involve parents and build capacity for both parents and educators in forming a strong partnership to promote the educational goals supporting high academic expectations for all students. To support this plan, the Title I Office will:

1. Involve parents in jointly revising the Title I Parent Involvement Plan, which is part of Garrett County's Master Plan.

*At least annually, invite parents from all Title I schools to review, revise, and provide feedback on, the district's Title I Parent Involvement Plan.

2. Provide coordination and technical assistance to Title I schools in the planning and implementing of effective parent involvement activities to improve student achievement, and school performance:

*Hold monthly meetings with the Parent Involvement Coordinators and school administrators to support the implementation of parent activities.

*Visit schools regularly to assure each school's Parent Involvement Plan is being implemented, and provide technical assistance, as requested.

3. Provide assistance to parents in understanding The Maryland Common Core State Curriculum, state and local academic assessments, and Title I requirements. Assist parents in monitoring their child's progress, accessing grades online, and working with educators to improve student achievement

*Maintain and update the GCPS website to include information on Title I, Common Core State Standards, Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC), and the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) in Science.

*Post copies of the Garrett County Public Schools Title I Parent Involvement Plan at each Title I school, on Title I school web pages, and the district's web page.

4. Coordinate efforts, along with parent involvement coordinators, in providing materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve academic achievement:

*At least annually, administer the Title I Parent Interest Survey to help identify topics of parental interest, and design programs that encourage and support parental involvement.

*The GCPS website will provide tips for parents on how to support student learning at home.

*Every semester, at various times of the day, offer parent outreach activities focusing on reading, math, science, and technology.

*At least annually, conduct PARCC/MSA Science Nights and familiarize parents with these assessments. Provide materials/ideas and encourage parents to support their child/children in test preparation.

5. In an effort to communicate with parents as equal partners, with parental assistance, work with instructional staff to encourage solicitation of parent feedback:

*Analyze data from the fall and spring Title I Parent Engagement Surveys to identify professional development topics on communicating and working with parents as equal partners.

*Coordinate regular meetings of Parent Involvement Coordinators and school faculty members to provide mini-sessions related to parent involvement.

6. Coordinate with Head Start and/or Judy Center staff, and the Garrett County Health Department, in providing parent involvement programs and activities:

*Judy Center staff will provide information on literacy, child development, nutrition, and available community resources/services.

*Head Start staff will provide parent information and learning activities. They will assist in the joint registration/transitional of HS students to kindergarten, and in registering students for pre-kindergarten.

*The Garrett County Health Department provides information to parents on wellness and safety programs, and available community resources/services.

7. Reserve funds to provide support to children experiencing homelessness. Garrett County Public Schools has a process for using these funds to assist homeless families.

8. Provide written information, to the extent possible, to parents in a language and format that is easily understood and translated.

9. Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and childcare costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.

10. Maximize parental involvement and participation by arranging school meetings/programs at a variety of times, conducting parent/teacher conferences by phone, instruct parents in using, and encourage the use of Parent Portal via Power School, and School Messenger.

The Garrett County Public Schools system conducts an overall parent involvement evaluation on the effectiveness of the system's Parent Involvement Policy by surveying parents throughout the district.

Parent Involvement Coordinators make an effort to personally contact parents with limited English proficiency, or limited literacy to assist with the survey. Each school receives survey results to assist in making decisions for their Parent Involvement Plan. The school district will use the evaluation to revise the District Parent Involvement Policy and/or the Title I Parent Involvement Plan.