

Wilkinson County Middle School Parental Involvement Policy 2021-2022

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Wilkinson County Middle School agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school will jointly develop with parents, distribute to parents of participating children, a School Parental Involvement Policy that the school and parents of participating children agree on.
- The school will notify parents about the School Parental Involvement Policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, will distribute this policy to parents in a language the parents can understand.
- The school will make the School Parental Involvement Policy available to the local community.
- The school will periodically update the School Parental Involvement Policy to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.
- The school will adopt the school's school-parent compact as a component of its School Parental Involvement Policy.
- The school agrees to be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

- (A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
- (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- (C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;*
- (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.*

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. Wilkinson County Middle School will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development and joint agreement of its School Parental Involvement Policy and its school wide plan, if applicable, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way:

- *Hold Parent Compact Review Meeting during the spring or in August of each year for parents that are in attendance.*

- *Send out notices from the school to parents concerning upcoming evening and day events such as Meet and Greet, Open House, and Family nights.*
- *Review School compact that are sent home with students in the Title I information packets at the beginning of the year by sending a meeting notice home with students, making one-call to parents, and advertising on school marques the date and time of this informational meeting.*
- *Compacts are distributed at Open House, PTO meetings, and Annual Title I Meetings.*

2. Wilkinson County Middle School will take the following actions to distribute to parents of participating children and the local community, the School Parental Involvement Policy:

- *Include the School Parental Involvement Policy in Title I information packets which goes home the first day of school.*
- *Include a link to School Parental Involvement Policy on the school website.*
- *Include in the school newsletters dates and time of meetings, post agendas in the school office.*
- *Highlight aspects of the School Parental Involvement Policy during various meetings throughout the school year.*

3. Wilkinson County Middle School will update periodically its School Parental Involvement Policy to meet the changing needs of parents and the school:

- *We will annually review the School Parental Involvement Policy.*
- *Invite all parents to be a part of handbook update sessions held in May of each year.*
- *Parent Involvement Policy will be reviewed by the School Council three times per year.*
- *Parent Involvement Policy will be reviewed and discussed during fall and spring parent-teacher conferences and continually make policy available on the school's website.*

4. Wilkinson County Middle School will convene an annual meeting to inform parents of the following:

- *A meeting notice will be sent home to parents and a notice will be placed in the school newsletter announcing the annual Title I parent meeting. This meeting is also advertised on school marques.*
- *All parents will also be notified of the meeting using the school call system which sends a voice message to the home of each student enrolled at WCMS.*
- *Title I Orientation (October): At this meeting the parents are informed of our status as a school wide Title I school. The guidelines and benefits of the program are discussed. Parents are also advised of their right to be involved in all aspects of the Title I program at WCMS. In addition, the following will be covered: curriculum, assessment tools, and ideas for parents to help their children at home.*

5. Wilkinson County Middle School will hold a flexible number of meetings at varying times, and may provide child care as long as these services relate to parental involvement:

- *Open House (August): Students and parents are invited to visit WCMS to meet their teachers and get a copy of their schedule. Open House is countywide and is held on the day before school starts at all schools from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., allowing flexibility for parents to attend. Parents and students are provided various forms of communication such as a calendar listing important school dates, a welcome letter from the student's team, and a personal planner for each student.*
- *Planning for High School Success meeting: A meeting/training session will be held in the spring for all parents to help them understand the importance of planning in middle school for success in high school. Eighth grade students and their parents are the target group for this program. A high school counselor will be invited to come and parents will be encouraged to ask questions. Title I funds will be used to provide for transportation, food and childcare, if necessary.*
- *Middle School Preview: A program will be held in the spring for parents and students of current fifth grade students to acquaint them with the policies and procedures of Wilkinson County Middle School. Title I funds will be used to provide for food and childcare.*
- *PTO meetings are held throughout the year and all parents are invited and encouraged to attend.*

6. Wilkinson County Middle School will provide timely information about Title I programs to parents of participating children in a timely manner:

- *Parents are notified via various communication outlets which include notices, phone calls, newsletters, local media, and the school website.*

7. Wilkinson County Middle School will provide to parents of participating children a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet:

- *Each parent will be issued a copy of our Middle School Parent Guidebook.*
- *During PTO "Meet and Greet" at the beginning of each school year, the following will be covered: curriculum, assessment tools, and ideas to help their children at home.*
- *Student Planners: Each student is issued a planner at the beginning of the year and instructed on the proper way to use it. This helps the parents know what students are doing in class and when assignments are due. The planner provides teachers and parents with an avenue of daily communication about academic and behavior concerns. Planners are provided at no cost to students.*
- *Parents are asked to submit their email address to be included in school alerts that pertain to information regarding their child's class.*
- *A link to the Parent Involvement Policy will be put on the WCMS website.*

8. Wilkinson County Middle School will provide parents of participating children if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible:

- *Parents are invited to their child's Parent Conferences held four times throughout the school year.*
- *Parents may call to schedule meetings with teachers at any time.*
- *Teacher email addresses are provided to parents on each course syllabus and on the school website so that they may email teachers as needed.*
- *Opportunities for parents to share experiences with other parents will be provided at the meetings mentioned previously. This dialog will enable parents to better understand the educational process and the problems that others are facing thus giving them an opportunity to actively participate in decisions relating to the education of their children.*

PART III. SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HIGH STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

9. Wilkinson County Middle School will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement. To improve student academic achievement, we encourage a strong effective involvement of parents and we support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community. Involvement is encouraged through the following activities specifically described below:

- *Annual Family nights will be held at the school. School staff will organize and present the night activities. Parents will be asked to evaluate and provide input and suggestions.*
- *Parents are asked to provide feedback in the form of a survey during our Academic Fair which is held in the spring of each year.*
- *Parents are encouraged to join our PALS Project (Parents Advocating, Leading, and Supporting) which allows them to volunteer in various capacities in the school throughout the year.*
- *Information is provided to parents in the Parent Resource Center which is located in the Career Center.*

10. The school will, with the assistance of its district and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

- *Providing training as necessary for staff in the value and utility of contributions of parents. Such training could include strategies on how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners; how to implement and coordinate parent programs; and how to build ties between home and school. We have developed a formal compact between parents, school and students that specifies everyone's contributing role in assuring the academic success of each child.*

11. The school will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent- programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

- *Information will be sent to students in both English and Spanish to make sure it is understood by all parents. (when applicable)*

PART IV. ADOPTION

This School Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs.

This policy was adopted by Wilkinson County Middle School in July 2021 and will be in effect until the spring of 2022. The school will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before November 2021. It will be made available to the local community on or before November 2021. The Wilkinson County Middle School's notification to parents of this policy will be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provide a copy of this policy to parents in a language the parents can understand.