



Title I

Parent Involvement Policy

Lowndes Middle School

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Valdosta, GA 31601

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Lowndes Middle School
Mr. Bill Haskin, Principal

2016-2017

School Information

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<http://lms.lowndes.k12.ga.us/>

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Title I Information

Title I is part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and is the foundation of the federal commitment to ensure that all children are provided with a high quality education.

Schools such as LMS, with at least 40% of students receiving free or reduced-price meals, operate a school-wide Title I program. A school-wide Title I program can provide benefits to all students and is not just limited to those students who are considered to be economically disadvantaged.

parents and how they, along with the entire school staff, will share the responsibility for improving student academic achievement. The compact is the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state’s high standards. The compact will be distributed to all parents at registration, and sent home with students. Translations in other languages will be available as needed. The compact will be revised annually. Parents will be invited and encouraged to offer input on any revisions. We will strive to have a 100% return rate on Compacts.

- ◆ Our school shall communicate regularly with parents through a variety of media/methods, including but not limited to: parent meetings, parent-teacher conferences, school and district website, parent workshops, “Remind” text messages, “Family Night”, newsletters, information sent home via students, and recommended websites that provide ideas for working with children at home. Translators will be provided to the extent practicable.
- ◆ Assessments used to measure student’s progress and the proficiency levels the students are expected to meet will be explained to parents. Information to be shared will include how teachers use classroom performance, grades, portfolios, standardized and teacher-constructed tests, self-assessment, questionnaires, and professional judgment in determining student progress toward meeting the Georgia Standards of Excellence and the Georgia Performance Standards.
- ◆ An explanation of the new Georgia standardized state assessment (replacing the CRCT) will be provided. Parents will be made aware that this test assesses a student’s knowledge of the local and state curriculum.

School Measures to Provide Required Assistance

- ◆ Parent involvement at school activities is documented through sign-in sheets and evaluation forms. Also, at each Parent Involvement Team meeting, a printed agenda is presented and each team member acknowledges his/her presence by signing an attendance log. To maximize safety, during “Drive-Thru” Parent Involvement events, the sign in procedure will be checking student’s name off a printed school roster. The Parent Involvement Team chairperson will work with the county’s Title I Parent Involvement Coordinator to support the Parent Involvement Team members and the school faculty in their efforts to increase parent involvement and improve student achievement.
- ◆ Our school will coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with programs such as Special Education, ESOL, and “transitioning” (from elementary to middle school and from middle school to high school), as well as other programs to the extent feasible and appropriate.
- ◆ Lowndes Middle School will sponsor a Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC) to further involve parents in their children’s education by providing them with resources, information and materials to address areas of concern for parents and students, such as local, state, and national academic content standards and standardized testing.
- ◆ A School-Parent-Student Compact for all students will be jointly developed with parents. Each parent will receive a copy and will be asked to read it with their child. Compact cover sheets will be signed and dated by parent/guardian, student, and teacher. The compact is used to guide discussions about academic goals between the teachers,

Definition of Parent Involvement

Parent Involvement is the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving academic learning and other school activities. It means ensuring that parents:

- play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning
- are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school
- are full partners in their child’s education

Support

** Lowndes Middle School invites all parents, as well as local community members, to serve on the Parent Involvement Team (PIT). Participants will be updated on important school information as well as have an opportunity to be involved in planning meaningful parent and family involvement activities at the school. Parents will be given opportunities to be involved in the decision regarding how funds reserved are allotted for parental involvement activities.

** A Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC) is available to provide parents with information and resources regarding parenting and the education of their child.

Description of School Parental Involvement Policy

Lowndes Middle School shall abide by and support all rules and regulations pertaining to Title I: Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged, Public Law 1007-110, and the Parent Involvement Policy of Lowndes County Public Schools.

- ◆ Lowndes Middle School will solicit parent participation in jointly developing a School Parent Involvement Policy, a District Parent Involvement Policy, and a School-Parent-Student Compact. These will be revised/updated annually. A copy of the policies will be distributed to every parent and copies will be made available to community members via the web. Parents will sign and return a checklist verifying they received Title I documents. We will also seek parent input in the updating and revising of the CLIP (Continuous LEA Improvement Plan), the School-Wide Plan, the School Improvement Plan, and the One-Year Action Plan.
- ◆ Parent meetings will provide the opportunity for all parents to offer suggestions and to participate in discussions relating to the education of their children. Additional opportunities for parents to be involved shall include volunteering in the school and/or classroom in addition to serving as part of the LMS School Council. This school-based organization of parents, educators, and citizens collaborates to set goals for improving student achievement and evaluate the progress in reaching these goals. In addition, parents are encouraged to attend grade level programs/meetings regarding their child's progress.

National Network of Partnership Schools - NNPS

Lowndes Middle School follows the NNPS model of “Keys to Successful Partnerships”

Parenting – Assist families with parenting skills and setting home conditions to support children as students.

Communicating – Conduct effective communications from school-to-home and from home-to-school about school programs and student progress.

Volunteering – Organize volunteers and audiences to support the school and students.

Learning at Home – Involve families with their children on homework and other curriculum-related activities and decisions.

Decision Making – Include families as participants in decisions and develop parent leaders and representatives.

Collaborating with the Community – Coordinate resources and services from the community for families, students, and the school and provide services to the community.

Building Capacity To Increase Parent Involvement

LMS will educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principal, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between home and school. These opportunities will be made available through Power Point presentations and electronic handouts.

School-Parent-Student Compacts

The “School-Parent-Student Compact for Achievement” is an agreement that parents, teachers, and students develop together. It explains how parents, teachers, and students will work together to make sure all academic goals are met or exceeded. The Compact Coversheet is signed and dated by parents, teachers, and students. The actual Compact is kept at home and the signed/dated coversheet is kept on file at LMS. It is discussed at all parent meetings and is updated/revised annually.

- ◆ Lowndes Middle School will survey its parent population annually to evaluate the effectiveness of our parent involvement program. As part of this evaluation, the Parent Involvement Team, as well as any other interested parents, community members, school administration, and staff shall meet to review and/or revise the school’s Parent Involvement Policy, School-Parent-Student Compact and the School-Wide Plan. The Title I office will provide technical assistance and/or advisement in the development of the local School Parent Involvement Policy, One-Year Action Plan, School-Parent-Student Compacts, and parent involvement workshop opportunities. All suggestions for improvement and identified barriers to parent involvement shall be noted.
- ◆ Our parents and local community join the Lowndes Middle School staff in developing and assessing school improvement strategies. Parents are encouraged to participate in decision making. We work collaboratively as a team to address issues, make plans, and implement those plans. Frequent reports are sent home about children’s progress. In addition, our faculty will communicate about the children’s progress through email, notes, and phone calls. Our faculty and staff embrace these ideas and provide access to classroom activities and encourage frequent communication.
- ◆ School personnel will receive information provided by the Parent Involvement Team to stress the value of parental contributions and involvement. The PIT and the school will work jointly to reach all parents and to encourage the building of partnerships between home, school, and the community.

Parent Involvement Program & Activities

- ◆ LMS will maintain an active Parent Involvement Team (PIT) that will convene at least five times/year at the school.
- ◆ All parents will be invited to an Annual Title I Meeting in August of each year. The purpose of the meeting will be to:
 - Inform parents about the guidelines, purpose, goals, and expectations of the Title I Program and their right to be involved.
 - Inform parents of their important role in their child’s success.
 - Encourage parents to participate in school functions, particularly “Family Night” activities.
 - Provide parents with a description and explanation of the school curriculum (Georgia Standards of Excellence and Georgia Performance Standards).
 - Provide parents with results of the annual school performance review (CCRPI report).
- ◆ We will offer a variety of parent meetings/workshops at flexible times, based on the needs identified in the parent survey. We are members of the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS), which uses the Epstein model of parental involvement. We will base all of our meetings/workshops on Six Types of Involvement and will use the Action Team approach. Parent Involvement Team meetings are scheduled throughout the school year and will have called meetings if there is a need. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend. A printed agenda shall be presented, each committee member shall acknowledge his/her presence by signing an attendance log, and meeting minutes will be recorded. A written flier will be sent home informing all parents of the meeting dates, time, and location. In addition, we will advertise meetings on the website and school marquee.

- ◆ Our faculty will foster a parent-friendly environment and provide parents with strategies/materials to monitor progress at home and support academic achievement. “Family Night” activities are held throughout the year with childcare, translators, or home visits, when feasible and funded under Title I. Evaluations are conducted at the conclusion of each activity. When appropriate, timely response will be made to parent suggestions. All unsatisfactory parents comments will be turned in to the Title I office.
- ◆ Lowndes Middle School shall ensure that all parents have access to information related to services provided by community agencies, parent programs, and school reports in a format and to the extent practicable, in a language such parents can understand, including parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, families that are homeless, and parents of migrant children. Local businesses and agencies will be encouraged to join in partnership with Lowndes Middle School through our “Community Partners in Education” program (CPIE).
- ◆ Open communication between our staff and parents will be addressed through parent-teacher conferences, parent-student handbooks, newsletters, school and teacher web pages, Title I literature, progress reports, report cards, individual and mass phone calls, and email. Parents are also encouraged to participate in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal where, via the internet, they can regularly view their child’s grades on assignments and current averages in every class.