

2023-2024 Annual Title I & Family Engagement Meeting

Morgan Fitzgerald Middle School

September 21, 2023

Ija Hawthorne, Principal



09.21.23

Why are we here?

- The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that each Title I school hold an annual meeting of Title I families in order to:
 - inform you of your school's participation in Title I,
 - explain the requirements of Title I, and
 - explain your rights as parents and family members to be involved.



What will I learn?

- What is a Title I school?
- What are my rights?
- What can Title I funds be used for?
- How does our school use Title I funds?
- What is the SIP?
- What are our schoolwide program goals?
- How is parent and family engagement funded?
- What is the Parent and Family Engagement Policy?
- What is the School-Parent Compact?
- What curriculum does our school use?
- What tests will my child be taking?
- How can I be involved?
- Who can I contact for help?



What is a Title I school?

- Title I was passed in 1965 under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). It is the largest federal assistance program for our nation's schools.
- Title I schools receive extra funding (Title I dollars) from the federal government. These dollars are used to:
 - identify students experiencing academic difficulties and provide assistance to help these students;
 - purchase additional staff, programs, materials, and/or supplies; and
 - conduct parent and family engagement meetings, trainings, events, and/or activities.



What are my rights?

- The families and parents of Title I students have a right, by law, to:
 - be involved in decisions made at both the school and district level;
 - be provided with information on your child's level of achievement on tests in reading/language arts, writing, mathematics, and science;
 - request and receive information on the qualifications of your child's teacher and paraprofessionals who are working with your child from Mrs. O'Mara, assistant principal [omaraa@pcsb.org] and
 - request opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions about the education of your child. The school is required to respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

What can Title I funds be used for?

- In general, Title I funds may be used for:
 - smaller class sizes,
 - additional teachers and paraprofessionals,
 - additional training for school staff,
 - extra time for instruction (before and/or after school programs),
 - parent and family engagement activities, and/or
 - a variety of supplemental teaching materials, equipment, and technology.



How does our school use Title I funds?

- In 2023-24, our school was allotted approximately \$200,000 in Title I funding.
- We developed a **Schoolwide Program**, which means we plan to spend our funds on the following:
 - Supplemental staff:
 - Ms. Ohlemann, MTSS Coach
 - Ms. Hinkins, Science Coach
 - Mr. Wolf, Math Coach
 - Ms. Joel, Reading Coach
 - Ms. Podgorski, Family and Community Title I Liasion
 - Programs/Materials/Supplies:
 - Classroom supplies for core areas
 - Career and Education Center for Community and Families
 - Teacher Professional Development:
 - Visiting exemplary schools





What is the SIP?

- The SIP is the School Improvement Plan. It includes:
 - the identification of the school planning team and how they will be engaged in the planning process;
 - a needs assessment and summary of academic and non-academic data;
 - prioritized goals, strategies, and action steps to help address the academic and non-academic needs of students;
 - teacher and staff professional development needs; and
 - budgets and the coordination of resources.
- The school must include family representatives on our school planning team, called the School Advisory Council.

What are our schoolwide program goals?

1. Teachers/leaders will use data to identify and plan to meet the needs of each scholar in order to close the achievement gap.
2. Teachers/leaders will use ladder of learning targets to make sure students know what the critical information they are expected to learn.
3. Teachers/Leaders coach and support students in complex tasks that require analysis, inquiry, critical thinking, and real-world application skills.
4. Teachers/ Leaders will use formative assessments to make sure students are meeting benchmark and can be both celebrated and get the intervention they need.



What is a Parent and Family Engagement Policy?

- These plans address how the district and school will implement the parent and family engagement requirements of ESSA. Components should include:
 - how parents and families can be involved in decision-making and activities;
 - how parent and family engagement funds are being used;
 - how information and training will be provided to families; and
 - how the school will build capacity in families and staff for strong parent and family engagement.
- You, as a Title I parent or family member, have the right to be involved in the development of these plans.



What is a Parent and Family Engagement Policy?

- The district Parent and Family Engagement Policy can be found here:
 - <https://www.pcsb.org/Page/33287>

The school Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be shared on October 6th, via email in our weekly email update. In addition, the policy can be found on our website front page.





What is a School-Parent Compact?

- A school-parent compact is a written commitment that outlines how the entire school community – teachers, families, and students will share the responsibility for improved academic achievement.
- The compact must describe how the school will:
 - provide high-quality curriculum and instruction;
 - hold parent-teacher conferences, annually in elementary schools;
 - provide parents with reports on their child’s progress;
 - provide parents reasonable access to staff.
 - provide parents opportunities to volunteer; and
 - ensure regular two-way meaningful communication between family members and staff, to the extent practicable, in a language family members can understand.
- You, as a Title I parent or family member, have the right to be involved in the development of the compact.

What is a School-Parent Compact?

- The school-parent compact will be shared on October 6th, via email, in the weekly email update. In addition, the compact can be found on our school website starting on October 6th.



What curriculum does our school use?

- The BEST Standards provide a common set of expectations for what students will know and be able to do at the end of a grade for each subject area.
- Florida's academic standards form the framework for everything taught at Morgan Fitzgerald Middle School.
- For more information about Florida's academic standards, see:
https://www.cpalms.org/Standards/BEST_Standards.aspxa





What tests will my child be taking?

- FAST testing 3 times a year – called “Progress Monitoring”
 - PM 1 = September
 - PM 2 = December
 - PM 3 = May
 - Sensitive and responsive to each student – different for every child
- 6, 7, 8th grades:
 - ELA
 - Math
- 8th grade only:
 - Civics
 - Science
- If students are enrolled in *Algebra* or *Geometry*, they will take an EOC instead of FAST, for high school credit.



How can I be involved?

- We need you! Research has proven that family engagement in education has more impact on student achievement than any other factor.
- To get involved with the SAC, please email Ms. Hawthorne at hawthornei@pcsb.org.
- To get involved with the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, please email Ms. Podgorski at podgorskid@pcsb.org .
- To get involved with the School Parent Compact, please email Mrs. O'Mara at omaraa@pscb.org.



How can I be involved?

Use the 3 A's (Attendance, Attitude, and Achievement) to guide you!

- encourage attendance;
- monitoring grades and schoolwork on Focus and/or Canvas;
- attending family events and meetings (our next one is Trunk-or-Treat in October!);
- observing or volunteering in classrooms;
- join PTSA; and
- reading school/classroom newsletters or websites
- encouraging and monitoring the use of IXL (all students) and iReady (some students) at home

Who can I contact for help?

- For general questions, call the front office at:
(727) 547-4526
- To reach the principal, Ija Hawthorne, call: x2005
- To reach our family liaison, Diana Podgorski, call: x2015
- To reach your child's teacher, call the front office or view our staff directory at: <https://www.pcsb.org/Page/7119>



**WE JUST WANT TO
SAY...**

THANK YOU!

