

# DeKalb County

School District

## **FREEDOM MIDDLE SCHOOL**

School Level Parental Involvement Policy

(2017 – 2018)

Revised: October 23, 2017

### **Part I: General Expectations**

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, each school that receives Title I, Part A funds must develop jointly with, agree on and distribute to parents of participating children a written parental involvement policy, agreed on by such parents, that contains information required by section 1118 (b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) (school parental involvement policy). The policy establishes the school's expectations for parental involvement and describes how the school will implement specific parental involvement activities, and it is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

The school will adhere to the following as required by law:

- Involve parents in an organized, ongoing and timely way, in the planning, review and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A including the planning, review and improvement of the school parental involvement policy and the joint development of the school wide program plan under section 1114 (b)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA).
- Update the school parent involvement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school and distribute it to the parents of participating children and make the parental involvement plan available to the local community.
- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA, in an understandable and uniform format and including alternative formats upon request and to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

- If the school wide program plan under section 1114 (b)(2) of the ESEA is not satisfactory of the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.
- 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) the 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) 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 SCHOOLWIDE PARENTAL INVOLVMENT POLICY  
COMPONENTS.**

1. Freedom Middle School will take the following actions to involve parents in an organized, ongoing and timely manner in the planning, review and improvement of Title I programs including involvement in the decisions regarding how funds for parental involvement will be used.

- *Parents will be formally and informally surveyed. Many decisions regarding parent training, programs and support will be the result of these surveys. A partial list of scheduled programs as requested by parents is indicated below:*

❖ Curriculum Night.....	Sept. 7
❖ MAP Parent Workshop.....	Oct. 19
❖ Fruit for Fathers Workshop.....	Oct. 27
❖ Parent Portal Training.....	Nov. 16
❖ Parent Math Problem Workshop.....	Dec. 14
❖ 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night.....	Jan. 18
❖ Milestone Standardized Testing Workshop.....	Jan. 20
❖ Rising 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night.....	May 3
❖ College and Career Day Fair.....	May 4

*All parents are encouraged to become MVPs (Most Valuable Parents), which is an incentive based Parent Engagement Program. At the end of each semester, Freedom will recognize the parents from the grade level who have earned the Distinction Parent Honor Roll (PHR). The PHR parents will be awarded a certificate at the end of the semester during the Award's Day ceremonies or during the last PTA Meeting of the semester. The parents will be identified as MVPs or Parent Honor Roll parents by meeting one, or more of the following criteria below:*

*Consistently participating in school functions, attending meetings, volunteering during the instructional days, serving on the PTA executive board, or school council.*

*The third Thursday is designated as Parent Engagement Thursdays. We are asking that parents volunteer in the Freedom Middle School Counseling Center, media center, classrooms, hallways and lunchroom.*

*The grade level with the highest number of parent engagement hours will be recognized every quarter.*

2. Freedom Middle School will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting at a convenient time and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents' requirement, the school parental involvement policy, the school wide plan and the school-parent compact.

Title I Annual Meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2017.

Parents were notified by Calling Post, flyers and the school's Website

3. Freedom Middle School will offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening and may provide transportation with Title I funds when necessary.
4. Freedom Middle School will take the necessary actions required to provide parents of participating children with the following:
  - ❖ Timely information about the Title I programs;
  - ❖ Description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet
  - ❖ Opportunities for meetings, if requested by parents, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.
5. Freedom Middle School will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

*Parents will be asked for input on several occasions including Title I Parent Night and the Stakeholder Engagement Meeting.*

6. Freedom Middle School will build the school's and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, involved parents and the community, to improve student academic achievement through the following activities described below:
  - A. Freedom Middle School will provide assistance to the parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding various topics by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph –
    - ❖ The state's academic content standards
    - ❖ The state's student academic achievement standards
    - ❖ The state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
    - ❖ The requirements of Part A
    - ❖ How to monitor their child's progress and
    - ❖ How to work with educators

*Activities include Curriculum Night, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Parent Workshops, Parent Seminars, Parent Training and Title I Night.*

- A. Freedom Middle School will provide materials and training to help parents to work with their child to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate to foster parental involvement.
- B. Freedom Middle School will provide training to educate the teachers, pupil services personnel, principal 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. Freedom will also implement and coordinate parent programs relating to the four core content areas and build ties between parents and school by:
- ❖ *Family Refugee Services – We will continue with our important partnership with the Family Refugee Services. This outstanding organization provides specific support in the four core areas to our refugee families. Additional training will also include other similar groups.*
  - ❖ *Fruit for Fathers – We will promote literacy by encouraging fathers, teachers, administrators and staff to work together and communicate with each other on best strategies for helping students succeed in the four content areas and increase their Lexile scores.*
- C. Freedom Middle School will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with the district parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in participating in the education of their children.

*We support parents of families by providing customized support, training, consultation in any of the four content areas on an as needed and requested basis to any Freedom Middle School parent requesting assistance.*

- D. Freedom Middle School will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school, parent programs, meetings and other activities are 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.

We use various tools to ensure that information relating to school and parent programs is sent to the parents:

*Calling Posts*  
*Web Page*  
*Flyers*  
*Twitter*  
*Phone Calls*  
*Posters*  
*Bulletin Boards*  
*Mailings*  
*Social Media*  
*Quarterly Newsletters*  
*Remind 101*  
*Instagram*  
*Facebook*

- E. Freedom Middle School will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

*Parents may request additional parental involvement activities through our Freedom Middle School Counseling Department or the District Parent Resource Center.*

### **PART III. DISCRETIONARY SCHOOL LEVEL PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

NOTE: The School Level Parental Involvement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under section 1118(e) of the ESEA:

Indicate which of the following discretionary school level parental involvement policy components the school will implement to improve parental involvement.

- ✓ Involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.
- ✓ Provide necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds if the school has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training
- ✓ Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions
- ✓ Train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents
- ✓ In order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their child's education, arrange school meetings at a variety of times or conduct in-home conferences with teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children and parents who are unable to attend conferences at school
- ✓ Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement
- ✓ Establish a school wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs
- ✓ Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations and businesses in parental involvement activities.

*Parents are involved in the development of training for teachers, principals and others. The recommendations of parents are top priorities.*

*Workshops and other training events are scheduled at various times before school, after school and during the school day. This maximizes parent involvement.*

*We have an extensive number of community-based organizations that are involved with Freedom Middle School. This includes many non-profits, local and national businesses, faith-based organizations, civic and social groups, as well as, community volunteers.*