

# School Plan for Shared Student Achievement

## What is Title I?

Southwest Middle School is identified as a Title I school as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I is designed to support State and local school reform efforts tied to challenging state academic standards to reinforce and enhance efforts to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support family engagement. All Title I schools must jointly develop a written family engagement policy with all parents/guardians. This is a policy that describes how Southwest Middle School will provide opportunities to improve family engagement to support student learning.

## How is it revised?

Southwest Middle School invites all parents to attend our Annual Parent Forum in the Spring to review and revise the family engagement policy, as well as the School's Accountability Plan, the School-Parent Compacts, and the family engagement budget. The plan is posted on our school's website for parents/guardians to view and submit feedback throughout the school year. Southwest Middle School also distributes an annual survey, online and by mail, to ask parents/guardians for feedback on the plan and the use of funds for family engagement. Students are also given surveys to complete at the end of the school year.

## Who is it for?

All students participating in the Title I, Part A program and their families are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this policy.

## Where is it available?

At the beginning of the year, the policy is given to all students along with the School-Family Compact. The policy is also posted on the school's website. Students/families may also retrieve a copy of the plan in the SWMS Family Center.

## Family Engagement Policy for Shared Student Success 2023–2024



Southwest Middle School

6030 Ogeechee Rd

Savannah, GA 31419

(912) 395-3540

Revised: April 10, 2023

Caroline Gordon-Jelks, Ed.S. Principal

Falana Temple, Assistant Principal

Benjamin Wanager, Assistant Principal

## SCCPSS Goals

### District 's Goals:

**Goal #1:** To increase student, parent/guardian, faculty/staff, and community interactions that support student achievement and success.

**Goal#2:** To increase positive and targeted communication to stakeholders that creates awareness and enhances school pride.

**Goal#3:** To promote and maintain meaningful partnerships with external stakeholders that support the teaching and learning process.

**Goal#4:** To increase the number of volunteers to support and strengthen the student learning environment in all schools.



### Southwest Middle School Goals:

Increase the percentage of developing or higher learners from 59% to 62% on the ELA Georgia Milestone Assessments (GMAS), from 67% to 70% on the Math GMAS, from 51% to 54% on the Science GMAS and from 58% to 61% on the Social Studies GMAS by May 2024,

Increase the percentage of students reading on/above Grade level from 53% to 58% as measured by the Georgia Milestones Assessment by May 2024.

## Jointly Developed

### School–Family Compacts

As part of this plan, Southwest Middle School and our families will develop a school–family compact, which is an agreement that parents/guardians, teachers, and students will develop that explains how parents/guardians and teachers will work together to make sure all students reach grade-level standards. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents/guardians, teachers, and students during our annual Parent Forum meeting which is held in the Spring.

### What is the Cinematic Studies

Southwest Middle School is proud to offer Cinematic Studies. Students learn about various theoretical, historical, and critical approaches to film and examine the evolution, influence, and artistic elements of American film.

Students enrolled in Cinematic Studies will learn the fundamentals of film, including narrative form, scripting, cinematography, editing, sound, and non-narrative forms. Students will have hands-on experience with creating their own short films and will participate in enrichment activities, such as stage plays.



Southwest Middle School will provide parent/guardian meetings and workshops as well as other reasonable support for family engagement activities.

- Annual Title I Meeting to inform parents/guardians of the requirements of Title I and the school's participation as well as parent's/guardian's rights under Title I (held twice in September)
- Open House
- iReady Math & Reading (Understanding the Assessment and Scores)
- GMAS and constructive writing responses (Understanding the Assessment and Scores)
- Parent Access
- Student Recognition Programs
- Annual Surveys (1% Budget and Annual Title I Survey)



Southwest Middle will adhere to the following as required by law:

- **Involve parents/guardians in the planning, review, and improvement of the school family engagement 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), in an organized, ongoing, and timely way.**
- **Update the school family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents/guardians and the school, distribute the policy to the parents/guardians of participating children, and make the family engagement policy available to the local community.**
- **Provide full opportunities to the extent practicable for the participation of parents/guardians with limited English proficiency, with disabilities, and/or parents/guardians of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable manner.**
- **If the schoolwide plan is not satisfactory to the parents/guardians of participating children, submit any comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.**

**Southwest Middle School** will take the following measures to promote and support family engagement as an important foundation of the school in order to build connections between home and school:

- ⇒ Program for transitioning our incoming 5th grade students to 6th grade and our 8th grade students to 9th grade.
- ⇒ All information related to school and parent/guardian workshops, meetings, and other activities will be posted on the school's website, fliers will be sent home, information listed on school marquee, and call-outs will be done at least 2 weeks prior to any event. All communication will be sent in family friendly language.
- ⇒ Communicate with all families and the school community on a regular basis regarding school wide events, activities, through school website, call outs and fliers.
- ⇒ Offer parent/guardian workshops at different times during the day to accommodate parent/guardian schedules and have workshops in the community outside of school.
- ⇒ Work with families as equal partners to develop relevant training and helpful presentations to educate our staff on the importance of family engagement.
- ⇒ Conduct staff development four times a year on family engagement practices and effective strategies for staff to communicate and build partnerships with parents.guardians.
- ⇒ Staff will communicate with parents/guardians and other stakeholders through email, phone and/or, their team's website on a consistent basis. Additional support will be provided for parents/guardians, as requested
- ⇒ Provide materials and training to help parents/guardians work with their children to improve their child's understanding the Georgia Standards of Excellence, and District and State assessments (i.e. iReady, GMAS).
- ⇒ The Principal or his/her designee will submit to the District Title I office any comments of parents/guardians who feel the School Accountability Plan is not satisfactory via email.
- ⇒ Each year SWMS will send out a One Percent Family Engagement Budget survey (Fall) to parents/guardians and conduct a Family Forum (Spring) where the one percent family engagement budget is discussed. Family feedback forms and minutes will be collected from this meeting. The survey and meeting feedback will be used to determine areas of family engagement need for the upcoming school year.
- ⇒ During the year school, SWMS administrators and school family engagement staff will receive training on developing meaningful two-way communication and consultation with families. This will include building capacities for strong staff and family engagement with EL families.



# Share your Thoughts!

## Family Center

Come visit the SWMS Family Center in room 621 to checkout books, study materials, and other resources use at home with your child.

Computers are available for parents/guardians to explore PowerSchool Parent Access and educational resources.

### Parent Facilitator:

**Mr. Ollie Kendrick**

**912-395-3540 ext. # 713621**

**Monday– Friday**

**8:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

### Family Engagement

Southwest Middle School defines family engagement as the participation of parents/guardians in regular two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities:

- Parents/guardians play an integral role in assisting their child's education at school.
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- Parents/guardians 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.
- Please carry-out all activities as described in this plan.

### Building Capacity of School Staff

In consideration of the value and utility of contributions of families, how to communicate with families as equal partners, and how to implement and coordinate family programming and meaningful connections between home and school, SWMS will collaborate with parents/guardians on training for teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, administrators and other school leaders, as well as other staff.

We want to hear from you. If you have any suggestions, or if there is any part of this plan that you feel is not satisfactorily aligned with the students' and the school's goals for academic achievement, please provide us your comments in the space provided and/or leave this form in the SWMS Main Office.

Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

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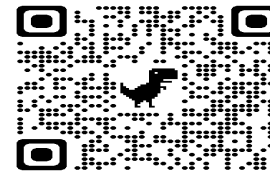
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The Savannah-Chatham County Public School System is looking for volunteers to donate their time at our schools. Volunteers provide valued resources and experiences .

See the link below to apply online.



Each year SCCPSS will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this family engagement policy and family engagement activities at the District and school levels. This review will be conducted by each school through an annual evaluation survey and Family Forums held at Title I schools in the spring of each school year.