



Alternative School @ Morgan Road

3635 Hiers Boulevard, Hephzibah, Georgia 30815

Mr. Virgil Smith, Principal
Mr. Calvin Moore, Assistant Principal
Phone: (706) 796-4992
Fax: (706) 560-3947

Mrs. Hazetta Churchwell: Counselor

Ms. Kimberly Simon: Instructional Specialist

School Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2020-2021

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In support of strengthening student academic achievement, The Alternative School @ Morgan Road receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by section 1116(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

The Alternative School @ Morgan Road agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- 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 parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the school wide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school, distribute it to the parents of participating children, and make the parent and family engagement policy 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 ESSA in an understandable and uniform format, 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) of the ESSA is not satisfactory to 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 parent and family engagement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parent and Family Engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- (C) 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) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The Alternative School @ Morgan Road 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 opportunities for regular 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.

A meeting will be conducted annually to include parents in the planning process for the school program and revision of the school-parent compact. In addition, an initial meeting will inform parents of the school's Title 1 Plan, its requirements and their right to be involved in the program. Other meetings such as parent days and Open House will also be conducted to inform parents of their students' progress and plan for intervention when needed.

The Innovation Academy will assist parents in understanding the state of Georgia's academic content standards. Information on state and local assessments used to measure student's progress and the proficiency levels the students are expected to meet is shared with the parents. Title 1 funds will be provided for transportations, childcare and home visits as needed

ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

The Alternative School @ Morgan Road 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' requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the school wide plan, and the school-parent compact.

The Alternative School at Morgan Road will hold its Annual Title 1 meeting on a yearly basis to inform parents of the requirements of Title 1. Parents will be informed through ShoutPoint, website, front office, parent center, phone calls, and flyers.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Alternative School @ Morgan Road will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children the following:

- Timely information about the Title I programs
- Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds, if applicable, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement.
- 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, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.
- The Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be distributed to parents during the annual meeting, when new students register, and when parents visit the parent center.
- Information will be provided during orientation, so that parents will be informed of meetings, programs, teachers, administration and become aware of their responsibilities and the needs of their child.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

The Alternative School @ Morgan Road 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 jointly develop a School-Parent Compact with the parent facilitator designee, students, and school staff during the input/revision meeting. Parent feedback will also be solicited throughout the year by way of conferences and surveys.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, the Alternative School @ Morgan Road will take the following actions to involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent by:

During the input/revision meeting, parents will be given the opportunity to discuss ways the parent engagement funds can be spent and write suggestions to be shared with the school. Parent feedback on how to spend the funds will also be solicited throughout the year by way of conferences and surveys.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The Alternative School @ Morgan Road will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- Providing a parent center with resources to assist parents
- Refer parents to receive wrap-around services at the Success Center
- Solicit community partners to aid in assisting parents

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

The Alternative School @ Morgan Road will build the parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

- Providing parents with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and
- Materials and training to help parents to work with their child to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement
- Providing assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 - The challenging State's academic standards
 - The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
 - The requirements of Title I, Part A
 - How to monitor their child's progress?
 - How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child
 - Infinite Campus
 - Suicide Prevention
 - The Volunteer Program

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The Alternative School @ Morgan Road will provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, 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 parents and the school by:

- Training school staff about academic strategies that parents can promote at home.
- Having work sessions with staff on the importance of engaging parents.
- Providing professional learning to the staff on how to help parents help their children.

The Alternative School @ Morgan Road will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:

- Communicating with parents in a variety of ways and at times that are convenient to parents; flyers, Shout Point (school messenger system), and school's website. (All forms of information may be communicated in a language that parents understand.)
- Provide information about the Title I programs, 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. Provide parents with individual student assessment results and the interpretation of those results.
- Provide parents with opportunities to participate in their children's education throughout the year by way of meetings, workshops, volunteering, and parent-teacher conferences. If they are not able to attend the meetings, they can contact the parent facilitator to receive the information and material.
- Offer Infinite Campus account set up and assistance with usage for parents and family members to monitor their student's progress.
- Work cooperatively with parents to build ties between school and home: working together as partners in the educational process will have a positive impact on student achievement.