

Hephzibah Middle School

Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Plan for Shared Student Success

2023-2024 School Year

Timothy Jones, Principal

2427 Mims Rd.

Hephzibah, GA 30815

(706) 592-4534

<https://www.rcboe.org/hms>

Plan Revised May 3, 2023

What is Title I?

Hephzibah Middle 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 the challenging State academic standards 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 with parents and family members a written parent and family engagement policy.



School Plan for Shared Student Achievement

What is it?

This is a plan that describes how Hephzibah Middle will provide opportunities to improve family engagement to support student learning. Hephzibah Middle values the contributions and involvement of parents and family members to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes the different ways that Hephzibah Middle will support family engagement and how parents can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.



How is it revised?

Hephzibah Middle School invited all parents to attend our annual School Forum last spring to review and revise this parent and family engagement policy, as well as the schoolwide plan, our school-parent compact, and the family engagement budget. Additionally, parent input and comments regarding this plan are welcome during the school year through an online form. The plan is posted on our school website for parents to view and submit feedback throughout the year. All parent feedback received during the year will be used to revise the plan for the next school year. We also distribute an annual survey online to ask parents for their suggestions on the plan and the use of funds for family engagement. Parents and family members can also give feedback during several parent meetings and activities during the school year. If the plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school will submit any comments to the district office.

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 plan. Hephzibah Middle will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents and family members with limited English, with disabilities, and of migratory children.

Where is it available?

At the beginning of the year, the Richmond County Parent and Family Engagement Plan is included in the student code of conduct book that is given to all students. The Hephzibah Middle Parent and Family Engagement Plan will also be posted on the school website and distributed at the Title I Annual Meeting. Parents can also retrieve a copy of the plan in the Parent Resource Center.

2023-24 District Goals

During the 2023-2024 school year, we will increase the percentage of highly effective teachers and leaders hired, trained, supported, and retained in RCSS to impact academic achievement across all content areas.

2023-24 School Goals

By the end of the 2023-2024 school year, the percent of students reading on grade level will increase by 7% on the Spring Reading I-Ready Assessment.

By the end of the 2023-2024 school year, the percent of students scoring on grade level will increase by 7% on the Spring Math I-Ready Assessment.

School-Parent Compacts

As part of this plan, Hephzibah Middle and our families will develop a school-parent compact, which is an agreement that parents, teachers, and students will develop that explains how parents and teachers will work together to make sure all our students reach grade-level standards. The compact will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students, teachers and all other stakeholders. The school- parent compacts are shared with parents during open house, the Title I Annual Meeting, online, during parent-teacher conferences and in the parent resource center.

Let's Get Together!

Hephzibah Middle will host the following events to build the capacity for strong family engagement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. Meetings for parents and family members will be held at various times (morning, afternoon and evenings).

Back to School Kick-off – August 2, 2023

Meet your child's teacher and our friendly and helpful school staff for the year.

Annual Title I Meeting – October 2023

We invite you to an evening of learning and sharing about our Title I program, including our parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, the school-parent compacts, and parents' requirements. Invitations will be emailed and posted in the school newsletter, social media, and local media.

Parent-Teacher and Student Conferences – October 2023

Scheduled updates on your child's progress.

Parent Portal Support - TBA

Parents will learn how to access their child's grades and other important school information.

Taste of Curriculum Night - TBA

Parents will enjoy hearing the latest writing samples and curriculum updates.

STEM/Science Fair Night – TBA

Gain knowledge about STEM and Science Fair projects.

Black History Celebration – February 2024

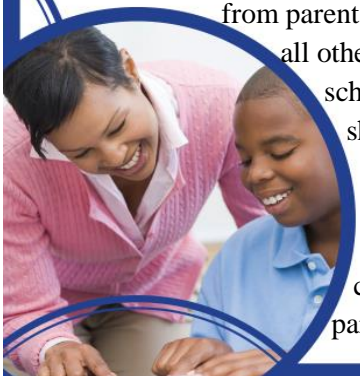
Learn about history!

Parent-Teacher and Student Conferences – March 2024

Scheduled updates on your child's progress.

Input and Revision Meeting – March 2024

A forum for parents and family members to participate in roundtable discussions with the principal and staff regarding the schoolwide plan, parent and family engagement policy, school-parent compacts, and the family engagement budget.



Parent Resource Center

Come visit the Parent Resource Center to check out books, study materials, and activities to use at home with your child. Computers are available for parents to explore the Parent Portal and educational resources.

Monday – Friday, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Parent and Family Engagement

Hephzibah Middle believes that family engagement means the participation of parents and family members in regular two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.
- 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.
- The carrying out of other activities as described in this plan.

Hephzibah Middle is committed to helping our parents and families attend the family activities listed in this policy. Please call or us if you need assistance with child care or transportation in order to participate in our programs.

(706) 592-4561



Hephzibah Middle is Branching Out!

Hephzibah Middle will take the following measures to promote and support parents and family members as an important foundation of the school in order to strengthen the school and reach our school goals. We will:

- ✓ Ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is published in an understandable format and language and posted on the school website.
- ✓ Provide trainings for staff on strategies to improve communication with parents and ideas to increase family engagement with reading and math activities for our students outside of the classroom. Staff will also share best practices during regularly scheduled faculty meetings.
- ✓ Partner with early childhood programs, middle schools, college and career ready resources or organizations, parent resource centers, or other programs (as applicable) to help prepare parents and their children for successful school transitioning.
- ✓ Share information for parents to understand the school's curriculum, academic standards and assessments as well as the ways parents can monitor their child's progress and work with educators. Provide parents with individual student assessment results and interpretation of those results.
- ✓ Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding schoolwide events and activities, through phone messages, the school website, and flyers.
- ✓ Work with our parents to develop relevant trainings and helpful presentations to educate our staff on the importance of parent and family engagement and how to support student learning.
- ✓ Provide necessary materials and handouts for parents at conferences, meetings, and activities to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement. These meetings will be offered at various times (morning and evening) and in various formats.
- ✓ Offer Infinite Campus account set up and assistance with usage for parents and family members to monitor their student's progress.
- ✓ Collect feedback from parents and family members at all events and post a survey on the school website in order to respond to parents' requests for additional support for parent and family engagement activities.



Parent and Family Engagement Standards

Hephzibah Middle and our parents have adopted the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships as the school's model in engaging parents, students, and the community. These standards are:

1. Welcoming All Families
2. Communicating Effectively
3. Supporting Student Success
4. Speaking Up for Every Child
5. Sharing Power
6. Collaborating with Community

School Council

Hephzibah Middle has developed a School Council to share ideas and ways to involve other parents and family members to build partnerships with school, families, and the community. The School Council meets four times during the school year, but all parents and family members can also submit their ideas or suggestions at any of the school activities and meetings, as well as through our parent surveys and website.



School Volunteer

- ☐ Yes, I am interested and wish to be trained and join the School Volunteer Team.
- ☐ Please contact me so I can learn more in joining the School Volunteer Team.
- ☐ Please send me notifications about future Volunteer Training Workshops.

Name: _____

Child's Name and Grade: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email address: _____

Share Your Thoughts

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

Name: (optional) _____

Telephone Number: (optional) _____

