



WHAT IS THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT PLAN?

What is it? This is a plan that describes how Harmony Elementary School will provide opportunities to improve parent engagement to support student learning. Harmony Elementary School values the contributions and involvement of parents in order to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement and of creating opportunities for parents to participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.

How is it developed/revised? Harmony Elementary School welcomes parent input and comments at any time regarding this plan, and the Title I Schoolwide Plan. Parents have the opportunity to provide input in the development of this plan, the district plan, the Schoolwide Plan, and the use of the 1% parent involvement funds. All parent feedback will be considered in the revision of all plans. This Parent Involvement Plan (PIP) is posted on our school website for parents to view and send feedback throughout the year. We also distribute an annual survey asking parents for their review of our Title I Program, as well as all plans. A question on the survey provides parents the opportunity to share how they think the 1% parent involvement funds could be spent. Parents can also give feedback during our annual Pickens County Parent Action Committee meetings. The Parent Involvement Plan is updated annually to reflect changing needs. If the Title I Schoolwide Plan is not satisfactory to parents, parent comments will be submitted to the district.

Who is it for? All students participating in the Title I, Part A Program and their families are both encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this PIP. Harmony Elementary will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents with limited English skills, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.

Where is it available? At the beginning of the year, the Parent Involvement Plan will be sent home with students in their Title I packets, posted on the school website, available at the school, available at Title I Meetings, annual Title I events, and at the Pickens County Parent Action Committee meetings.

OUR COMMITMENT TO PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Harmony Elementary School is committed to parent involvement and will do the following to help ensure the academic achievement of our students:

- Welcome All families
- Support students' success
- Partner with parents
- Communicate effectively
- Advocate for each child
- Collaborate with our community



What is Title I?

Harmony Elementary 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 in order 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 parental involvement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with all parents a written parental involvement plan.



LET'S GET TOGETHER!

Harmony Elementary School will host the following events to build the capacity for strong parental involvement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. Notices and invitations will be sent home with students, published in the Pickens County Progress, posted on Facebook, and transmitted via an all-call phone notice to inform families of these parent engagement opportunities. Flexible scheduling will be used for meetings.

- Open House: Parents and students are able to meet their teacher and briefly learn about grade-level expectations.
- Annual Title I Meeting: Parents learn about Title I and Schoolwide Programs, the Georgia Standards of Excellence, the Georgia Milestones Assessment, our Title I Program including our School Parent Involvement Plan, Parent/School/Student Compact, the Title I School-wide Plan, how the 1% parent involvement funds are spent, and other Title I requirements. This meeting will be held September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
- STEM Night: Parents and students enjoy activities that incorporate science, technology, engineering, and math. Parents and students experience firsthand the fun and excitement of math and science enabling families to continue the learning at home. Parents will receive an info sheet for activities to do at home.
- Curriculum Night: Parents are provided information on grade-level expectations based on the standards and the curriculum and information regarding the assessments that students will be given throughout the year. In addition, parents are provided with strategies they can use at home with their children. Parents learn about the importance of partnering with teachers to support their child's academic achievement.
- Parents are provided with individual student academic assessment results and interpretation of those results during parent/teacher conferences. Information will be sent home for those unable to attend.
- Book Fair: Parents and students enjoy shopping together to pick out a book that they can enjoy reading.
- Read across America: Parents are invited to come and read to their child's class.
- Author's Night: Allows students to share with parents their best writing sample from the year.
- School Advisory Council: This committee of parents, teachers, and business partners meets quarterly to review the school improvement plan and student achievement data.
- PTO: Parents and teachers work together to plan fun activities and fundraisers to supplement a variety of items for students to use in the classroom, such as Fall Festival, movie night, holiday shops, and music and art performances.

NEED ASSISTANCE?

Harmony Elementary School is committed to helping parents attend the parental activities listed in this plan. Please call or email if you need childcare or other assistance in order to participate in our programs.

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TEACH
encourage
instruct
MENTOR
PRAISE
influence
GUIDE
INSPIRE

PARENT ACTION COMMITTEE

The Pickens County School System, along with Harmony Elementary School, invites all parents to join the Pickens County Parent Action Committee. We invite you to share ideas and ways to involve other parents in building partnerships between school, family, and the community. The committee will meet twice yearly with flexible scheduling, but parents may submit their ideas and suggestions during activities and meetings as well through parent surveys and email. If you would like to learn more about PCPAC, please contact Destini Shope, Director of Community Engagement at 706-253-1700 or destinishope@pickenscountyschools.org.

HARMONY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IS REACHING OUT

Harmony Elementary School will take the following measures to promote and support parents as important partners in strengthening and reaching school goals. We will:



- Ensure that this plan and information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is provided in a language and format that is understandable, to the extent practicable, and is posted on the school website and is included in grade level newsletters.
- Educate staff members on strategic communication skills that will foster positive relationships with parents, on the value and utility of contributions of parents, implement and coordinate parent programs, and provide strategies on how to build ties between home and school.
- Collaborate with Head Start, community-based pre-k programs in Pickens County, and Prevent Child Abuse Pickens (Pickens Family Partners) to share information about school activities and newsletters, to prepare parents and their children for kindergarten, and to facilitate school transition.
- Share information via the school website and newsletters to help parents understand the school's academic standards/assessments, to assist parents in monitoring their child's progress, and to work with educators ensuring students' academic success.
- Communicate regularly regarding school-wide events and activities through phone messages, social media, school website, and/or flyers.
- Provide materials, as appropriate, to assist parents in working with their child to improve academic achievement.
- Work with parents to inform staff members of the importance of effective communication and parental involvement via newsletters and staff meetings.
- Collaborate with community leaders, business groups, and local residents to increase participation and awareness of school-parent involvement practices and activities.
- The school will offer meetings at various times (mornings and evenings) and in various formats (large group, small group, and individual parent conferences) to accommodate families' schedules and needs.
- Listen and respond to parents' requests for additional support with parent involvement activities.
- Provide regular meeting opportunities if requested by parents.



SCHOOL-PARENT-STUDENT COMPACT

As part of this plan, Harmony Elementary School and our parents will develop a school/parent/student compact, which is an agreement that parents, teachers, and students will develop collaboratively. The compact explains how parents, teachers, and students will work together to help all students in achieving grade-level standards. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students, and teachers using letters to be sent home, meetings, surveys, and the school website.