

Matilda Harris Elementary School
Parent Family Engagement Plan
2017-2018 School Year



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Plan Revised July 25, 2017
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What is Title I?

Matilda Harris 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 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 Matilda Harris Elementary School will provide opportunities to improve parent engagement to support student learning. Matilda Harris Elementary School values the contributions and involvement of parents in order to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes the different ways that Matilda Harris Elementary School will support parent 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 developed? Matilda Harris Elementary School welcomes parent input and comments at any time regarding the plan. All parent feedback will be used to revise the plan for next year. The plan is posted on our school website for parents to view and provide feedback throughout the year. We also distribute an annual survey (online and paper sent home) that asks parents for their suggestions on the plan and the use of funds for parent involvement.

What feedback was indicated? The yearly survey showed that parents prefer information instead of workshops on improving mathematics skills, reading skills, and on test preparation. Parents also prefer workshops held in the afternoon and evening over morning and lunch times. Activities will be planned to address these needs during the 2017-18 school year.

Who is it for? All students and their families are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. Matilda Harris Elementary School will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents and family members with limited English, parents with disabilities and parents of students with disabilities, parents of migratory children, as well as guardians of children served through the Methodist Children's Home. Matilda Harris Elementary School will offer childcare and transportation to the extent practicable upon request.

Where is it available? Once adopted, the plan is posted on the school website, in the parent resource center, and in the front office.

Elementary School Promotion Standards

Grades 1-5

Students must pass language arts, reading, mathematics, science, and social studies and connections courses as they apply.

All students in grades 1-2 must have a passing final grade of "2" or higher in language arts and mathematics; and "S" for satisfactory in science and social studies.

- All students in grades 3 – 5 must have passing final grades of 70% or higher in language arts, reading, mathematics, science, and social studies.
- 3rd Grade students must also pass the Reading of the Georgia Milestones EOG.
- 5th Grade students must also pass the Reading AND Mathematics portions of the Georgia Milestones EOG. Click [HERE](#) for further information

Parent Resource Center

Located in the media center, it is stocked with a variety of materials and resources to help your child achieve academic success. *Open school days from 8:00 – 4:00.*

2017-18 District Goals

To increase the percentage of 3-12 grade students designated as proficient or higher on the ELA GMAS from 51% in 2017 to 54% in 2018, 57% in 2019, and 60% in 2020.

Increase the percentage of all students designated as proficient or higher on the Math GMAS from 55% in 2017 to 58% in 2018, 61% in 2019, and 64% in 2020.

2017-18 School Goals

1. Increase the literary and informational reading level of all students
2. Increase the Language Arts achievement of all students
3. Increase mathematics achievement of all students
4. Increase the science achievement of all students

Parent and Family Engagement Standards

Camden County Schools has adopted the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships as the county'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-Parent Compacts

- ✓ As part of this plan, Mamie Lou Gross Elementary and our families will develop a school-parent compact, which is an agreement that parents, teachers, and students will develop together that explains how parents and teachers will work together to make sure all our students reach grade-level standards. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students and teachers.
- ✓ Parents will retain a copy of the compact for their use.
- ✓ Additionally the compact can be viewed on-line, and will be provided to parents upon request. Teachers will review the compacts with parents during conferences.

Title I Meetings

Matilda Harris invites all parents to participate in scheduled meetings, to share ideas and ways to involve other parents, and to build partnerships with school, families, and the community. Meetings are held throughout the school year, but parents can also submit their ideas or suggestions during all activities and meetings as well as through our parent surveys and website. If you would like to learn more about the Title I meetings, please contact Dr. Heath Heron, (912)729 - 2940

Stay Informed

Please visit the MHES website: <http://mhes.camden.k12.ga.us/> for information on upcoming events, school activities, parent information, Title I and school documents and to find links to teacher e-mail and websites.



Please like us on Facebook

Parental Involvement

Matilda Harris believes that parent involvement means the participation of parents 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 have the right to know the qualifications of teachers and paraprofessionals
- That parents know there is a grievance procedure & how to access it
- 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 including Title I Stakeholder Input Meeting, Annual Title I Meeting, Monthly School Council meetings;
- The carrying out of other activities as described in this plan.

Matilda Harris Elementary School is branching out!

Matilda Harris Elementary School will take the following measures to promote and support parents 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 both English and requested languages (per home language survey), and posted on the school website and included in school newsletter for all parents.
- ✓ Conduct on-going staff development on parent involvement practices and effective strategies for staff to communicate and build partnerships with parents.
- ✓ Share information to assist parents in understanding the school's academic standards and assessments as well as the ways parents can monitor their child's progress and work with educators.
- ✓ Assist parents in setting up parent PowerSchool e-mail alert messages.
- ✓ Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding schoolwide events and activities, via phone messages, Facebook, and flyers.
- ✓ Work with our parents to develop relevant trainings and helpful presentations to educate our staff on the importance of parental involvement.
- ✓ Provide necessary materials for parents at conferences, meetings, and activities to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement.
- ✓ Collaborate with community leaders and business groups to increase participation and awareness of the school parental involvement plan and activities.
- ✓ Offer parent workshops on relevant and topics.
- ✓ Listen and respond to parents' requests for additional support for parental involvement activities.
- ✓ Assist parents and students in transitions between elementary and middle and middle and high school.

Matilda Harris Elementary School is committed to helping our parents attend the parental activities listed in this plan.

Please call 912-729-2940

or email hheron@camden.k12.ga.us

if you have any questions or if you need assistance with childcare or transportation in order to participate in our programs.

Let's get together!

Matilda Harris Elementary School hosts 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.

- 1. School Council Meetings:** The MHES School Council meets on the last Monday of every month at 3:00 p.m. (except June). All parents are encouraged to attend. The MHES School Council discusses school issues, provides input, and makes recommendations to the principal.
- 2. PTO Meetings:** The MHES PTO will hold meetings the second Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:00 p.m.. All parents are welcome to come and join the PTO Officers in discussing events and activities that will benefit our students. Regular PTO meetings are scheduled several times a year in conjunction with student performances and programs.
- 3. MHES Open House:** Tuesday, August 1, 2017, 4:00-6:00 p.m. All parents were invited to tour the school, get information, and meet their child's teacher prior to the first day of school.
- 4. Pre-K Parent Orientation:** August 7, 5:00 p.m.
- 5. Kindergarten Parent Orientation:** August 17, 4:15 p.m.
- 6. First Grade Orientation:** August 9, 5:00 p.m.
- 7. Second Grade Orientation:** August 8, 4:30 p.m.
- 8. Third Grade Orientation:** August 7, 5:30 p.m.
- 9. Fourth Grade Orientation:** August 17, 5:00 p.m.
- 10. Fifth Grade Orientation:** Email Blast
- 11. Title One Stakeholder Meeting:** July 25, in the cafeteria. Topics to be addressed: Title One Overview and Eligibility, Test Data, Critical Issues and Action Plans, School Improvement Plan/Parent Involvement Plan, Title One Budget, Parent Involvement Survey Results, Program Evaluation, Parent-Teacher Compact.
- 12. Annual Title One Meeting:** August 17, 5:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. All interested parent and community members are invited to attend. Topics to be addressed: Title One Overview and Eligibility, Test Data, Critical Issues and Action Plans, School Improvement Plan/Parent Involvement Plan, Title One Budget, Parent Involvement Survey Results, Program Evaluation, Parent-Teacher Compact.
- 13. Terrific Kids Programs:** In these quarterly programs, teachers recognize students for outstanding achievements, helping others, being role models for other students, and good character. Parents are invited to attend.
- 14. Field Day:** Held near the end of school year (TDA). Parents are invited to volunteer and help run stations.

