

Morningside Elementary School
TITLE I PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY
2011-2012

Morningside Elementary School shall abide by and support all rules and regulations pertaining to Title I: Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Public Law 1007-110, and the Parent Involvement Policy of Houston County Public Schools (HCBOE) as follows:

Morningside Elementary will hold an annual orientation meeting/open house in the fall and winter for all parents and guardians. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend both sessions. The purpose of the meeting will be to:

- Inform parents of the guidelines, purpose, goals, and expectations of the Title I program.
- Introduce parents to the teachers and staff of the school.
- Inform parents of the general operations of the school.
- Inform parents of the curriculum expectations and classroom expectations as well as individual teacher policies and procedures.
- Inform parents of standardized testing requirements.
- Give parents information on their role in school of the elementary child.

Meetings for parents are scheduled at various times of the day, such as morning, afternoons, and evenings to allow for every opportunity for parents to be involved. Refreshments are provided when possible. Parents are given multiple opportunities to attend activities such as Open House, Data Night, 100 Days of School Celebration, Schoolwide Parent/Teacher Conferences, and parent classes which focus on helping parents learn how to help with homework, class work expectations, and testing.

Morningside Elementary will conduct informal surveys following each large group meeting in an effort to evaluate the effectiveness of the parent involvement program. Parents will also be surveyed at the end of the school year in an effort to obtain school-wide opinions. Concerns and questions will be handled in a timely manner by the appropriate party through notes, e-mails, calls, and/or conferences.

As part of the evaluation, and in conjunction with existing data, PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) members will revise and evaluate the mission and goals, parent involvement plan, and forthcoming surveys. During such meetings, a printed agenda will be made available and all members of the PIC will be asked to sign-in. The county Title I parent coordinator will provide assistance where necessary in the development of the parent involvement plan and policy, student/teacher/parent compacts, and workshop opportunities. Detailed minutes will be recorded and available to all staff members and to parents. All decisions made by the PIC will be made with the mission and goals of the committee as the driving force. The mission of the Morningside Elementary School Parent Involvement Committee is to create an open door environment in the school where teachers, parents, and community work together to create life long learners. The goals of the Parent Involvement Committee are as follows:

- Make parents and community members feel comfortable and welcome with our school and classrooms.
- Work together with parents to develop a common language between home and school.
- Create an exciting and motivating school climate that welcomes home-school interaction.

Morningside has worked to institute a parent involvement plan. This plan directly links to our school-wide goals and was developed through the input of parents, teachers, and staff on the parent involvement team and was brought before the staff. The parent involvement plan is in direct correlation with the school-wide improvement plan.

Our school shall communicate regularly with parents through a variety of methods, including, but not limited to, parent meetings, parent/teacher conferences, parent workshops, resource areas, newsletters, information sent home via students and recorded in the parent agenda, as well as, the school pamphlet,

website, marquee, and call-out messenger system. Translations will be provided for parents, when necessary.

The building principal, assistant principal for instruction, certified teachers, and other faculty and support personnel, will involve parents in their children's education by providing them with information and materials. Information and materials will also be provided to parents through the resource information in the school lobby. Parents are also encouraged to attend workshops/trainings/events throughout the school year such as, but not limited to, helping at home with homework workshop, preparing for tests workshop, family math night, family literacy night, standards-based learning, and open forum opportunities with the principal.

The school curriculum will be shared through the Houston County website, as well as through pamphlets produced by the Georgia Department of Education. Pamphlets are available through the Houston County website. Curriculum information can also be found at www.georgiastandards.org. Morningside Elementary will embrace the standards-based learning environment as outlined by the Georgia Performance Standards. It is the goal of each teacher to communicate standard expectations to each child and parent. Regular administration of assessments will be used in the classroom to help guide instruction throughout the school year. Summative assessments, such as HCLI (Houston County Literacy Inventory), ITBS for third graders, and CRCT for second through fifth graders will evaluate the effectiveness of implementation of the expected standards. Assessments and standards will be communicated to parents at the fall and winter Open House meetings. Teachers will also communicate with parents on a regular basis through signed papers, report cards, notes, phone calls, and conferences to inform the parent of student progress in meeting the standards. The school will work with parents to understand student performance on state and local assessments. School staff will strive to improve student achievement through identifying strengths and weaknesses, setting short and long term goals, and providing immediate and appropriate feedback with appropriate interventions or extensions to achieve standards. Parents will receive a copy of their child's assessment results when district, state, or national tests are administered. Parents will be afforded opportunities to ask questions about assessments.

Parents will be informed that Morningside Elementary School is a Title I school. During the Fall Open House, parents will be presented with the student/teacher/parent compact. Each spring, as part of the evaluation, the PIC will review the compact and its effectiveness, as well as, its application. Revisions will be completed and implemented in preparation for the upcoming school year. All data, comments, and/or suggestions regarding the Title I school plan and parent involvement policy will be collected and sent to the county parent involvement coordinator. Comments will be used in the revision process for the upcoming school year.

All information regarding school reports, parent programs, meetings, and other activities will be posted on the school website and available to parents per their request. Open communication between staff and parents related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities will be addressed through parent-teacher conferences, handbooks, weekly signed papers, newsletters, notices, notes in the agenda, progress reports, e-mails, the school web site, and literature. To the extent possible, this information will be provided in the family's primary language. In addition, teachers and staff are encouraged to make home visits where necessary.

In all avenues, parents are encouraged to be a part of the planning process at Morningside Elementary. Involvement in PTO, school council, and PIC ensure the team works collaboratively to address issues, make plans, and implement such plans. Such meetings also allow for time to revise the parent compact and communicate school and student needs and progress. Morningside faculty and staff embrace the concept that parents are the primary teacher and work to provide access to classroom activities and to encourage frequent communication.