

School-Level Parent and Family Engagement Plan



Edwards Middle School *School Year: 2023 – 2024* Revision Date: April 25, 2023

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Edwards Middle School 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 Plan that contains information required by Section 1116(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The Plan 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 Title I Plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

Edwards Middle School 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 Plan and the joint development of the Schoolwide Title I Plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Update the School Parent and Family Engagement Plan 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 Plan 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 Schoolwide Title I 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

DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN COMPONENTS

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Edwards Middle School 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.

Parents are provided the opportunity to make suggestions and give feedback regarding the Parent & Family Engagement Plan in the Parent and Family Engagement Survey, available during the 2nd semester on our school website. Parents are also invited to attend the Annual Title I Revision Meeting(s) in the spring each year to give feedback for the upcoming school year. Parents can also utilize a parent suggestion box located outside the Parent Liaison office.

ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Edwards Middle School 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 Plan, the Schoolwide Title I Plan, and the School-Parent Compact.

The Annual Title I Meeting is held at the beginning of the school year prior to October 31st. All information regarding the Title I program is shared during this meeting. Parents are invited to attend by calling posts, school marquee, and it will be posted on our website and Facebook pages.

COMMUNICATIONS

Edwards Middle School 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, transportation, childcare or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement; and
- 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, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

The Parent & Family Engagement Plan will be posted on our school website; copies are also available in the school's front office and Parent Resource Center. Workshops and meetings are offered throughout the school year. Edwards Middle School will inform families of these workshops and meetings in various ways by posts on the school website, phone calls, our school marquee, and sending flyers home in a language in which the parents can understand. Childcare can be provided as requested.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Edwards Middle School 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 are invited to our Annual Title I Revision Meeting(s), which are held at the **end** of the school year to develop a School-Parent Compact. Our Annual Parent and Family Engagement Survey is distributed at end of 1st semester, and suggestions for the School-Parent Compact are taken into consideration yearly. The completed School-Parent Compact is distributed at the beginning of the following school year.*

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, **Edwards Middle School** 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:

Parents are encouraged to provide input on how the 1% of Title I funds are used. Input and suggestions can be made through our parent workshop surveys, our annual survey, and online.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Edwards Middle School 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:

A Parent Resource Center is located near the commons area. We employ a Parent Liaison who offers parent resources needed to assist with the education of their student(s). The Parent Liaison attends meetings with parents, students, and teachers to help accommodate specific goals and needs of students. Several computers are available in the Parent Resource Center for parents who do not have a computer at home to provide academic achievement.

Edwards Middle School serves students who are residents of Elk's Aidmore Children's Center. Elk's Aidmore provides residential care 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Students must attend public schools. EMS serves these students during our regular school year and during summer tutorials. It is our intention to provide support to ensure academic success for students. The staff at Elk's Aidmore Children's Center, acting as parents/guardians to the resident students, are included in all correspondence and parent engagement activities.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Edwards Middle School 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;
- 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; and
- 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(ren)

Parent workshops are offered throughout the year in the four core subject areas, social and emotional learning, and technology training. Parent/Teacher conferences are offered twice per year, and we always encourage a conference between parent(s) and teacher(s) anytime it is deemed necessary by the parent or the teacher. Our parent portal is always available, and EMS also distributes communications to parents throughout the year such as home school connection newsletters to increase the achievements of their student(s).

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Edwards Middle School 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:

EMS will provide training to educate the staff, twice per semester, on how to communicate and work with parents as equal partners. Teachers, Counselors, Administrators, and the Parent Liaison attend conferences, workshops, and trainings to learn to collaborate effectively and establish positive relationships with our parents.

Edwards Middle School will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:

Our Title I Parent Liaison coordinates all parental involvement and communicates with parents and the community throughout the school year. Our Parent Resource Center houses a library of family-oriented resources. We align parent/student needs with local support agencies and with school-based support services as needed.