CARL SANDBURG LEARNING CENTER

Engaging and Cultivating Lifelong Learners

Title I Newsletter

2026–2027

Welcome to a brand new school year! We are so happy to have you as part of our community. At Carl Sandburg Learning Center, we believe that your child thrives when we work hand-in-hand. You are your child's first teacher, and your voice is the most important one in their education. Let's team up to make this year amazing!

Working Together: Our School's Plans & Policies

School Improvement Plan (SIP)

Every year, we take a close look at how we're doing and create a "road map" called the School Improvement Plan (SIP). This plan helps us decide how to support our students best and use our resources to help everyone succeed.

We can't do this without you! We would love for you to share your ideas and feedback so they can help shape our school's future. If you'd like to see the plan or have ideas about it, please reach out to the principal. You can also find it posted on our website.

Sharing Your Concerns

Your feedback is important to us. If you ever have a concern, Montgomery County Public Schools has a simple process to make sure your voice is heard. You can find the steps and a helpful form on the Title I or MCPS websites at http://www.mcpsmd.org.



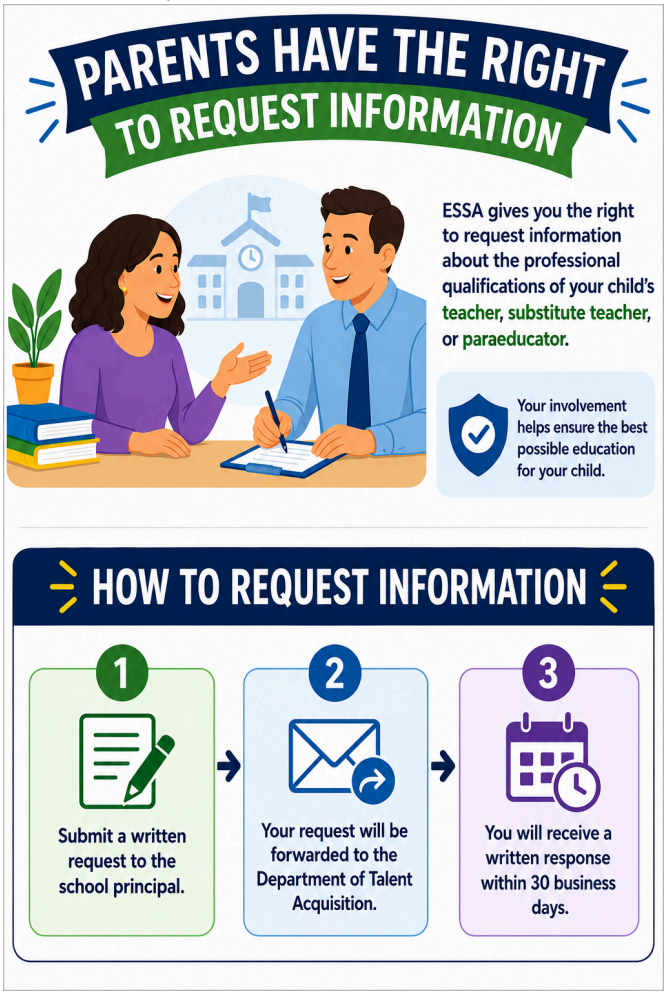
Helpful Info You Can Request

Our school receives supplemental funding through Title I, a federal grant program for

schools serving communities with high economic needs. This program provides extra resources and is part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

As a parent, you have the right under ESSA to know about the professional background of the wonderful educators working with your child. Your request will be forwarded to the Department of Talent Acquisition and can include details about:

- Degree status and subject area of licensure
- State of Maryland licensure status, including conditional licensure.
- Qualifications of paraeducators or long-term substitute teachers working with your child.



Helpful Resources

- The MCPS Title I website offers county, state, and federal resources, along with information on the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 — visit it here: https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/dtecps/title1/
- District and School-Level Plans: ESSA requires these plans, which outline the strategies and actions taken to engage families as partners in their child's education.
    - Access our school's specific engagement goals and plan here: Carl Sandburg Learning Center, Family Engagement Plan
      Carl Sandburg Family Engage...
- Visit the Maryland Families Engage website! It's a free, easy-to-use resource created by the Maryland State Department of Education.

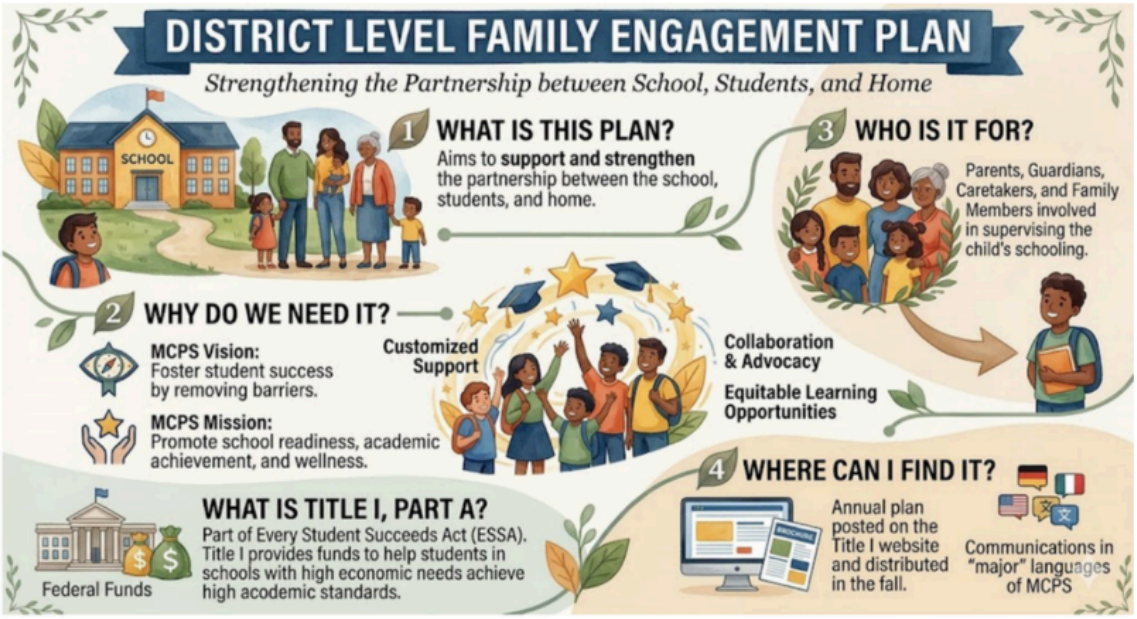
If you would like to be a part of the Family Advisory Council to support family engagement in Title I schools at the district level, and/or be a part of your school's Family Engagement Committee, please contact the principal, **Ms. Jada Langston, (Jada_Langston@mcpsmd.org)**

If you have any questions about the information in this newsletter, please contact the school.

MCPS Title I Parent & Family Engagement District Level Plan 2026-2027

MCPS Title I Parent & Family Engagement District Level Plan 2026-2027

Overview



Why Parent & Family Engagement?

We believe that children thrive and succeed when schools and families collaborate. This means:

1. Holding the expectation that all MCPS Title I staff convey a commitment to parent & family involvement and collaboration of all stakeholders.
2. Sharing responsibility in the education of our children.
3. Ensuring that the school system, as well as individual schools, are committed to establishing programs and practices that match the needs and priorities of our parents, families and school communities.
4. Aligning our programs and practices to the experiences, expectations, and values of different racial/ethnic groups.
5. Including parents & families of a) Emergent Multilingual Learners and b) children with disabilities in collaboration and participation efforts.

How can we make this a reality?

Our dedication to our beliefs is demonstrated through:

1. Developing the *Title I District Level Parent & Family Engagement Plan* jointly with the Title I Family Advisory Committee (FAC), made up of MCPS Title I staff & families.
2. Providing information through this plan on how the Title I requirements will be carried out at the district level.
3. Giving families an opportunity to provide feedback using the Evaluation Tool during family workshops, parent meetings, and other events.
4. Analyzing the feedback from the Evaluation Tool annually at the Spring FAC meeting. Suggestions are provided to revise the plan and create opportunities for increased family engagement.
5. Developing the School-Level Parent & Family Engagement Plan at each Title I school by using a template that includes the Title I program requirements.
6. Analyzing and revising School-Level Parent and Family Engagement Plan at their Family Engagement committee meetings and leadership meetings.

Montgomery County Public Schools
UNLEASHING POTENTIAL

Department of Early Childhood, Federal and Special Programs
Rocking Horse Road Center
4910 Macon Road, Room 204, Rockville, 20852
240-740-4600

MCPS Title I Parent & Family Engagement District Level Plan 2026-2027

The Plan

Family Activities

Parent Academy TO GO: The MCPS "Parent Academy TO GO" is a series of virtual presentations for families with information central to their children's academic and emotional well-being. Workshops are provided to families at least twice a month during the school year on a variety of topics such as:

- understanding the State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, and how to monitor a child's progress;
- supporting the development of their child's physical, social, and psychological well-being;
- working with educators to improve student achievement, and helping parents work with their children.

Family Workshops: Title I instructional specialists provide materials and training to parents / families and school staff members at each school translated and/or interpreted based on community needs on:

- understanding Title I requirements;
- enhancing communication, collaboration, and outreach between home and school;
- supporting their children's academic progress at home

School Parent/Family Engagement Processes: Title I Instructional specialists support schools and families by:

- providing resources and training to teachers in Title I schools on best practices for having effective communication, collaboration, and engagement with families;
- providing resources and training for families to engage in successful parent-teacher partnerships;
- working with Family Engagement Committees in their quarterly meetings to ensure that parents/families have the opportunity to collaborate and make decisions about how family involvement funds are spent.

Staff Training

Staff Training: Technical assistance is provided throughout the year by Title I Instructional Specialists through a variety of forums and on an array of topics related to their work as members of central office staff and school-based staff members. Support provided to schools includes but is not limited to:

developing school-parent/family compact and School-Level Family and Parent Engagement Plan;

- planning and developing professional learning for school staff members to work as equal partners and collaborators with parents/families;
- communicating and collaborating with families as equal partners in their children's education;
- providing training with the Family Engagement Specialist to school-level Parent Community Coordinators; connecting school-level Parent Community Coordinators with resources and community-based organizations to increase parent and family engagement.

Instructional Specialist Training: Title I instructional specialists communicate, coordinate, and collaborate to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements. Title I staff members will also receive training on relevant issues, which they will share with school staff members and families, including but not limited to:

- evidence-based strategies for parent and family engagement;
- preparation, training, and monitoring of family involvement budgets;
- coordinating collaboration of parents/families in family involvement budget decisions;
- appropriate use of federal funds for family engagement initiatives and efforts by Title I schools.

Support to Schools

The Department of Early Childhood, Federal, and Special Programs (DECFSP) communicates, coordinates, and collaborates in family engagement initiatives with MCPS offices by:

- participating on various committees throughout the year;
- meeting and planning with the Division of Specialized Support Services and Parent Community Coordinators to support outreach and training efforts for Title I parents/families;
- partnering with Prekindergarten/Head Start to coordinate training efforts for Title I parents/families to ensure a streamlined approach to increasing family engagement

Coordination to Schools

The coordination of Title I parent and family engagement efforts and technical assistance to Title I schools will be provided by Title I instructional specialists from DECFSP. Title I instructional specialists provide:

- support, guidance, and assistance to school staff members in planning and implementing effective family engagement experiences to improve student achievement and school performance;
- assistance with developing the School-Parent/Family Compact*, School-Level Plan, and other parent/family engagement opportunities;
- documentation that demonstrates adherence to Title I, part A federal and state requirements and will be maintained at DECFSP.

*** School-Parent/Family Compact**
The School-Parent/Family Compact is part of the collaboration effort between families and schools. It defines goals, expectations, and shared responsibilities. Each school will develop the compact in the fall in partnership with families. Compacts will be reviewed at the Fall Parent-Teacher Conference and will be signed.

Give us your feedback!