

## White Marsh Elementary School – A Title I School -- Parent Involvement Plan 2017-18

White Marsh Elementary School defines parent involvement as the participation of the parent in regular, two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic achievement and other school activities. WMES recognizes that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school, family and community for the duration of the child's participation in school. To accomplish Talbot County Public Schools' mission that each child will ***Learn, Grow and Succeed***, the community, families, children and school must work together for success.

### **WMES recognizes and supports Parent Involvement in the following ways:**

**Parenting:** Helping families establish home environments to support children as students, using the following resources:

- Title I families are invited to workshops throughout the year that address nutrition, discipline, money management, stress and other areas of concern identified by parents.
- Information on behavior, discipline and other ways to develop healthy habits in children distributed in school newsletter, website and other communications
- Guidance Counselor available to help parents connect to community resources that support development of positive parenting skills
- Eastern Shore psychological services available onsite to assist students and families with issues of concern

**Communicating:** Conducting effective communications from school-to-home and home-to-school about school programs and student progress

- Monthly newsletters contain dates for school programs and information about events happening throughout school community
- Daily contact between parent/guardian and teacher via agenda books
- Website contains up-to-date information about school programs and news
- Auto-dial is used to communicate with school community regarding matters requiring immediate attention
- Weekly folders inform parents of all assessments conducted with their child on a weekly basis, along with assessment results
- ELL translator communicates with parents in their native language about school programs and interventions
- Host an Annual Meeting for Title I parents (August 29 & 30 2017) to communicate about Title I programs, services and supports available to students and families, to encourage parents to participate as decision-makers and to inform parents about the availability of Set-Aside funds
- Parents encouraged to participate in conferences (8/29-30/17, 11/9/17, 3/29/18)

**Volunteering:** Organizing volunteers and audiences to support the school and students. Provide volunteer opportunities in various locations and at various times.

- WMES employs a full time volunteer coordinator to recruit and assign volunteers across the school community
- RISE program encourages parents and community volunteers to come in to the school and read to children
- WMES Title I families are encouraged to join PTO and WMES Grandparents Club
- Volunteer opportunities are advertised in school newsletter, on website and via other communications

**Learning at Home:** Involving families with their children on homework and other curriculum-related activities and decisions.

- Parents are informed about state academic standards and state and local assessments via newsletter, workshops and other communications
- Math Nights held in the fall and winter
- Home-School materials distributed to Title I parents, along with record of progress
- Tips on homework help and other learning activities for home are included in monthly newsletters

**Decision-Making:** Include families as participants in school decisions, and develop leaders and representatives.

- Parents are surveyed annually at District and School level
- Parents are involved in developing and implementing Parent Involvement plan and Home/School Compact, parent feedback on these documents is solicited annually through Title I packet distributed on Title I Night. Parents can submit comments directly to Kim Seidel at (410) 476-3144 or [kseidel@tcps.k12.md.us](mailto:kseidel@tcps.k12.md.us).

**Collaborating with the Community:** Coordinate resources and services from the community for families, students and the school, and provide services to the community.

- School maintains partnership with community agencies including Judy Center, Health Department, Department of Social Services and others, and accesses services as needed
- PTO supports Business Partner program and Adopt-a-School program to provide needed materials for teachers
- Students engage in various volunteer projects throughout school year to support community agencies such as Humane Society and Veterans' programs
- CarePacks program available to White Marsh students to assist with weekend nutrition
- WMES maintains partnership with Character Counts program, placing volunteer Character Coaches in each classroom