

White Marsh Elementary School – A Title I School -- Parent Involvement Plan 2010 – 2011

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

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 available for parents on request to use with their children at home
- 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.

- Title I parents are invited to participate in School Improvement Team
- Title I parents are invited to participate in annual Welcoming School Walk-Through to assess and improve school climate
- 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

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
- WMES maintains partnership with Character Counts program, placing volunteer Character Coaches in each classroom