

NAHUNTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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FY 2017 NAHUNTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TITLE I PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY

This Title I Parental Involvement Policy is in effect during the 2016-2017 school year.

Nahunta Elementary School has collaborated with participating parents to develop the School Parental Involvement Policy as required by Title 1 Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. A written copy of this policy will be distributed to all students. The policy will also be posted on the school website.

Nahunta Elementary School will:

- I. Convene an annual meeting with parents:
 - a. at a convenient meeting time for parents to encourage all parents to attend
 - b. to review and revise the School Parental Involvement Policy
 - c. to evaluate effectiveness of parental involvement activities and initiatives
 - d. to inform parents of Title 1, explain Title 1 requirements, Title 1 programs, and a parent's right to be involved
- II. Make the policy available to all parents and community members through a variety of means including, but not limited to, the student handbook, school website, and a written copy sent home with every student.
- III. Provide parents with:
 - a. flexible meeting times.
 - b. timely information concerning:
 - Title 1 programs and funding.
 - results of the annual school review including school performance profiles (e.g., CCRPI school designation).
 - individual student assessment results and interpretation of those results.
 - a description and interpretation of the school curriculum.
 - assessments used to measure student progress and proficiency levels that students are expected to meet.
 - c. timely responses to parent concerns/suggestions.
 - d. reasonable support for parental involvement activities as requested.
 - e. opportunities to participate in parental involvement meetings where parents can share suggestions and have input into educational decisions.
 - f. opportunities to participate in an ongoing and end of year assessment to evaluate the effectiveness of the parent involvement initiatives.
 - g. opportunities to participate in the development of school-parent compact that outlines how parents will be responsible for supporting student learning.
- IV. Provide parents with assistance in understanding:
 - a. National Educational Goals.
 - b. Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE).
 - c. components of the NES Title I Schoolwide Program.
 - d. Standardized tests (e.g., Georgia Milestones Assessment) and local benchmark assessments.
 - e. requirements of Title 1, Part A.
 - f. responsibilities of the student, parent, teacher, and administrator in the student's learning as defined in the Student/Parent/Teacher/Administrator Compact.
- V. Provide parent materials and/or training in:
 - a. effective ways that parents can monitor their children's progress and work with educators to support their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, and

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- television watching; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time.
 - b. ways parents can participate in decisions relating to the education of their children.
 - c. ways to help parents work at home with their children on skills that will improve their achievement.
 - d. parent resources, including the state's online parent resource center.
 - e. effective use of technology in increasing their child's academic achievement.
- VI. Educate all faculty and staff in
- a. the value and utility of parental input and contributions.
 - b. how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners.
 - c. implementing and coordinating parent programs.
 - d. improving working relationships between home and school.
- VII. Coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs, activities, and strategies.
- VIII. Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parental involvement activities.
- IX. Provide information to Limited English Proficiency parents in a language and format that parents can understand.
- X. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment.

Throughout the year, NES provides many opportunities for parents to be involved in the school life of their children, and we strive to maintain strong lines of communication. Below are some of the means through which our school promotes parental involvement.

- Staff development opportunities for staff and parents are provided in order to be able to establish and maintain a working relationship. These opportunities include the following:
 - ❖ Title I Staff Orientation – during pre-planning – The staff is reminded of the value of communicating with parents positively through conferences, phone calls, letters, and/or weekly notifications of behavior and/or academic progress. The staff is notified each year that NES is a Schoolwide Title I School and that all teachers are considered Title I teachers so that the funds available can be spent to benefit the overall improvement of instruction in any classroom. Results of the Title I monitoring are discussed and corrective actions are outlined.
 - ❖ Title I Parent Orientation Opportunities:
 - Open House – Parents are encouraged to visit the classroom to meet the teacher on this date. Teachers will have opening day packets prepared to share with the parents.
 - PTO Meetings – Parents are encouraged to attend these meetings and help our PTO as it benefits our students and the school as a whole. The more parents who join and participate in PTO, the more we can do for our kids. Please come to our meetings so you can find out where you can “plug in.”
 - Curriculum Night – TBA – During the program, the principal will provide a brief explanation of the Title I Schoolwide Plan, the Parent-Student-Teacher Compact, and the Parental Involvement Policy. The compacts should be signed and returned to school at the beginning of the school year or when a new student registers during the year. Copies of the Parental Involvement Policy will be available in the rooms and at the office.
 - Title I Parent Meetings – TBA – During the Fall, this has in the past doubled up with our Curriculum Night. Another meeting may be held in early Spring to disseminate similar information.
- Accelerated Reader (AR) – Our AR program has built into it some “at home” reading time, so it's a perfect opportunity for teachers and parents to work together to encourage reading and promote literacy in our students.

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- Access – NES will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports, required by Title I, in a format and to the extent practicable in a language such parents understand in order to eliminate language barriers.
- Agendas and Communicators – The agenda is a book that provides space for students to write down their assignments for homework, projects, book reports, research papers or other upcoming assignments. A space is provided for the teacher or parent to write notes to facilitate teacher/parent communication. Teachers also use this to provide other information such as website URLs and passwords. The Communicator (used in 4th grade) is a folder with pockets to send home papers, newsletters, and information to be signed. A separate pocket is labeled as “return to school” so that the parents will know what to keep at home and what to sign and return to school.
- Alert Solutions – (aka “Power Announcement”) This powerful tool gives us the capability to communicate with parents via e-mail, voice, and SMS messaging for emergency messages, student bulletins, school cancellations, attendance notifications, and general announcements.
- Attendance – We can’t teach students if they’re not here, so we want to work with parents to ensure good attendance. Parents are held accountable for student attendance (through BOE policy and state law), but we will work with you to monitor attendance and keep the lines of communication open through phone calls and attendance letters when needed.
- “Celebrate Excellence!” – During our 9-weeks awards ceremony (a.k.a., “ribbon day”) we encourage parents to join us as we “Celebrate Excellence” in their children’s work. Invitations are sent out to parents of all students who will be receiving any award.
- Council – the NES Council is an advisory body comprised of parents (2), business persons who are also parents (2), NES teachers (2), and the principal. This important group provides valuable input on our School Wide Plan, this Parental Involvement Policy, and the like.
- E-Mail – School e-mail addresses are provided for teachers, partially to facilitate parent contact. E-mail addresses for teachers will be provided at the parent’s request, and teachers will happily use this valuable tool to keep the lines of communication open.
- Field Day Activities – Field Day activities are competitive events and parents are encouraged to attend and enjoy watching the activities on this day.
- Newsletter – This communication from the principal and grade-level teachers to parents describes upcoming events (e.g., Celebrate Excellence, Honors Day, Academic Brunch) as well as concerns that affect the performance of students in the academic program.
- Newspaper Articles and Pamphlets – The school and/or system will use news releases and pamphlets to inform parents and the general public of school assessments, the status on the CCRPI Report, and progress toward the school improvement goals.
- Nutrition Newsletter – This reproducible family newsletter gives important information concerning nutrition and the diet of students. Our School Food Director sends this out along with the monthly breakfast and lunch menus.
- Parent Notifications – Parents will be notified of grades through the sending home of Progress Reports at the midpoint of the nine-weeks grading periods, Report Cards at the end of grading periods, student assessment expectations, and student assessment results.
- Parent Participation in Surveys – Parents are asked to participate in surveys to determine the effectiveness of various programs.
- Parent Representation on NES Council – Parent members will be present on our School Council, an advisory body comprised of the principal, two teachers, two businesspersons (who are also NES parents), and two parents of NES students.
- Parent Representation on Title Programs Team – At least one time annually, a team will meet to review NES Title I and Title II-A documents (e.g., surveys, school-parent compact, Title I School Wide Plan), policies, plans (like this one), and procedures for accuracy, effectiveness, and relevance.

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- Parent-Teacher Conferences – Faculty members are available for conferences upon request by the parent at any time during the year at a mutually convenient time for all parties involved. Parents should contact the school receptionist or school secretary to set up a conference. Parents should also make themselves available for conferences when requested by teachers or school administration. Sometimes it becomes necessary, or at least advisable, to meet as a team to assess student progress in academics or discipline. Parent conferences, phone calls, and positive letters to parents should be maintained by each teacher on a log that can be produced for the evaluating administrator.
- Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) – This organization provides opportunities to parents who are available during the day to carry out projects to raise money to support the school program. The officers encourage all available parents to assist with projects such as the Book Fair, Santa Shop, Miss NES Pageant, School Socials, 6th Grade Send-off, Concession Stands for certain events, and other projects that may be planned by the PTO.
- PowerSchool Access – Parents can apply for access to view grades and attendance online through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Parents should contact the school receptionist or school secretary to obtain access. A valid, government-issued photo ID must be provided.
- Radio Station (1610 AM) – This is a VERY low-power station that can only be heard in the immediate vicinity of the school (for you to hear while you’re waiting for school to let out, for instance). It is also patched into the phone system so it plays while callers are on hold. PTO provided this for us some years ago.
- “Remind101” – The principal and many teachers use a website called “Remind101” to e-mail and/or text such news to students and parents. It is a great, SAFE way for teachers to communicate with students and parents. See the principal, teachers, and/or the office for details.
- Report Cards / Progress Reports – In addition to providing parents with information regarding their children’s academic progress and achievement, we also use these to communicate important information, such as upcoming events, to parents.
- Social Media – NES personnel do their best to update the NES Facebook and Twitter accounts (for example) to inform parents of important news and events in the life of their children.
- Test Results – Students’ standardized test scores, and interpretations of those scores, are provided to parents. Examples include the Georgia Milestones Assessment.
- Thanksgiving Dinner – usually the week before Thanksgiving holidays – During this day, parents, grandparents, and other loved ones are invited to come to school and eat lunch with the children. Parents may come on other days for lunch by following the Visitor Policy.
- Transition to BCMS – In the spring of the year, NES personnel take 6th grade students to the middle school for an orientation provided by BCMS personnel.
- Volunteers – While there are safety and security procedures we must follow (background checks, for instance), we appreciate our NES volunteers! Our administration will provide opportunities for volunteers to work at the school to help our faculty and staff better serve NES students, and will find as many ways as possible to show our appreciation to these volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact the school.
- Website – School (nes.brantley.k12.ga.us) – This provides parents with information about upcoming events and news regarding significant achievements and accomplishments by our school, its faculty and staff, and its students.
- Websites – Teacher (accessed through the School Website) – These provide parents with up-to-date information and news from that grade level and/or teacher.