

Upson-Lee Middle School Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2017 – 2018
Vision Statement: DESTINATION ...GRADUATION!
Revised: 06/02/17

The goal of the Parent Engagement Program for Upson-Lee Middle School is to promote a strong and effective home and school partnership to better serve the needs of our students. The Upson-Lee Middle School affirms and assures the right of parents to be involved in the education of their children.

Involvement will include but not be limited to parental input into the planning, design, and implementation of the Upson-Lee Middle School Title I plan.

- A. Upson-Lee Middle School will ensure parent involvement in the planning, design, and implementation of the plan by:
1. Convening an annual Title I meeting at convenient times where the purpose and major strategies for the Title I program and school-wide plan are discussed as well as the rights of parents to be involved. The meeting will be held in the day and the evening. The Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the School-Parent Compact will be discussed as well as the importance of parent engagement.
 2. Providing ongoing, informed and timely information about the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, the use of the Title I funds for parent involvement, and teacher professional qualifications.
 3. Planning meetings and workshops that will be held at flexible times to better meet the needs and time of parents. Meetings in the evenings will have child care.
 4. Providing parents information about the school's programs and other important topics such as local and state assessments to measure student progress, Georgia Standards of Excellence, curriculum, expectations of students, and monitoring student progress through workshops, newsletters, information sheets, parent letters, the school website, social media, and conferences. Dates for workshops will be sent out through flyers, parent calls, newsletters, social media, and signs.
 5. Making parents aware of parental involvement requirements and other relevant provisions of the program.
 6. Providing information, to the extent practicable, in a language and form all parents can understand.
 7. Ensuring the opportunity for parents, teachers, community stakeholders, and students to come together as partners to prepare a school-parent compact that will serve as a guideline for student success.
- B. Upson-Lee Middle will include but not be limited to:
1. Training parents to work with their children at home to better help them achieve the state standards through free parent workshops offered at different times and by sending helpful information home via flyers, letters, website, and teacher and school newsletters. Parent training will be taken annually to the community at the Thomaston-Upson Housing Authority, Truine Village Community Center, and churches at their request.
 2. Building a partnership between parents, teachers, principals, and other staff through effective communication and opportunities for parents to visit the school, to volunteer in the school, and to serve on decision making committees through the PTO, the advisory committee, the school council, or the improvement team. (Call Mrs. Gulley, principal, or DeAnn Hopkins, parent coordinator, if interested.)
 3. Training all staff to work effectively with parents and how to implement and coordinate parent programs.
 4. Providing a comprehensive range of opportunities for parents to be informed in a timely manner through meetings and workshops, parent/teacher conferences, newsletters, school website, Infinite Campus Parent Portal, the newspaper, the radio, student agendas, information sheets, parent automated calls,

letters and social media. The PIC sends parent information and schedules of upcoming events to many churches in the community.

5. Reporting the student's progress through a variety of methods such as mid-term reports, report cards, Wednesday signed papers, individual assessment results, posted grades on Infinite Campus, conferences, emails, phone calls, social media, etc.
 6. Reporting results of the annual school review, school performance profiles, individual student assessments and interpretation, and data from state and local assessments.
 7. Providing parents with opportunities to review improvement plans, review testing data, discuss issues, make suggestions and complaints through input meetings and surveys. Parents can go to the system website at any time to give input or contact DeAnn Hopkins, parent coordinator, to set up a meeting.
 8. Responding to suggestions and reporting complaints in a timely manner.
 9. Providing assistance in understanding State Standards, components of school wide programs, monitoring of student's progress, and the use of technology to improve achievement.
 10. Meeting the needs of all students including Homeless, Migrant, and English Learners. There will be 2-3 EL parent meetings are held each year with an interpreter to share important information and to answer questions of interest.
- C. Upson-Lee Middle School will annually consult with parents; will assess the effectiveness of parental engagement, and make modifications as needed to better to meet the changing needs of the students and parents by:
1. Sending out annual surveys and evaluations and using results to modify.
 2. Providing opportunities for parents to specifically help identify barriers of parent participation and to suggest strategies to increase parent engagement through input meetings and surveys.
 3. Encouraging parents to participate on the System Advisory Council, School Council, School Advisory, Improvement Team, and Input Meetings held at the beginning of school and in the spring. ULMS wants and needs parent input and help with decision making!
 4. Providing other reasonable support for parental activities as parents may request. (Home visits, Parent Resource Center, Parenting Classes, trainings of interest, etc.)
- D. Upson-Lee Middle School will involve parents in the process of school review and development of the School Improvement Plan by:
1. Encouraging parents to serve on school improvement committees, leadership planning groups, interest groups, system planning retreat, parent and system advisories, etc.
 2. Encouraging parents to run for school council or attend the open meetings.
 3. Encouraging parents to complete surveys.

Upson-Lee Middle School will work with the Title I Parent Coordinator to ensure that all of the above is carried out effectively and that the school remains parent friendly.

ULMS encourages all parents to stay engaged with their child's learning. We want your child to succeed!

This policy and a student-school compact that outlines the shared responsibility of student achievement were written with the help of parents, the parent coordinator, stakeholders, and school staff.

For more information, please contact:

DeAnn Hopkins, Parent Coordinator, at 706-646-9405 or dhopkins@upson.k12.ga.us
Mrs. Gulley, Principal, at 706-647-6256 or rgulley@upson.k12.ga.us