

## Harlan Rowe Middle School

### Parental Involvement Policy

2016-2017 School Year



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#### What is Title 1?

Harlan Rowe Middle School is identified as a Title 1 school as part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). Title 1 is designated to support state and local school reform efforts tied to challenging state academic standards in order to reinforce and enhance efforts to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support parental involvement.

Harlan Rowe Middle School's Title I Program currently operates as a Schoolwide Program. In a Schoolwide Title I program, ALL children are considered Title I and ALL staff are considered Title I teachers and staff.

## Parental Involvement Policy

**What is it?** This policy describes how Harlan Rowe Middle School will provide opportunities to improve parent engagement to support student learning. Harlan Rowe Middle School is committed to the goal of increasing the number of parents involved in influencing the success of all students through academic support, school activities and programs. This policy describes the different ways that Harlan Rowe will support parent engagement and how parents can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.

**How is it developed?** Harlan Rowe Middle School welcomes parent input and comments at any time regarding this policy. All parent feedback will be used to revise the policy for next year. The policy is posted on our school website for parents to view. We also distribute an annual survey to ask parents for their suggestions on the policy. Parents can also give feedback during our Title 1 planning with parents, students, and school leaders to revise the policy for the upcoming school year.

**Who is it for?** All students of Harlan Rowe Middle School and their families, are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan.

**Where is it available?** At the beginning of the year, the policy is given to all students. The policy will be posted in the parent section in the school website. Parents can also retrieve a copy of the policy in the front office.



At Harlan Rowe Middle School, a committee of school staff members and parent volunteers are actively involved in the planning, reviewing and improvement of the Parent Involvement Policy, and the school compact.

An annual meeting will be held to inform parent/family of the Schoolwide Title I Program, the requirements, and the parents' right to be involved. In addition, Title I will provide parents with informational sessions in regards to RtII and literacy.

Evaluation forms, surveys, and questionnaires may be used to gather parent/family input for planning, reviewing and improving the Schoolwide Program. Open House, Committee meetings, parent conferences, phone conferences, Back to School Night, and other school activities will be held throughout the year at various times for parents to communicate with teachers. Title I funds may be used to pay for expenses associated with parent involvement activities.

Parent/Families will be informed of the Title I Program through an informational letter and invitation to attend a parent meeting describing the program. Parent meetings will be held at various times during the school year.

The Athens Area Elementary Schools will distribute a copy of the School-Parent Compact. Parents/Families will also be informed of the school curriculum and assessments by attending Back to School Night and talking with the child's teachers. PowerSchool, PSSA results, Edgenuity MyPath, and EasyCBM reports may be used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet. Staff will be available to assist parents/families in understanding the PA Core State Academic standards, local and state assessments and ways to help assist their child's progress in these areas. As part of the Student Assistance Program, staff may meet with parents/families to formulate suggestions and make decisions relating to the education of the child in a timely manner, when appropriate. Therefore, parents will have the opportunity to formulate suggestions and participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children.

The Harlan Rowe Middle School Title I Schoolwide Program will provide opportunities for parents/families to work with the child to improve achievement by conducting learning activities which foster student success with an emphasis on parent/family involvement. Parents/Families will be encouraged to participate in school activities and to attend training sessions presented by school staff or out-of district presenters.

Learning takes place best when there is a combined effort on the part of the home and school working together. It is our belief that together we can achieve a quality education for all students. A school-parent/family compact has been created which describes the school, parent/family and student's responsibilities for improved student achievement. The policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed upon by parents and staff of children in the Athens Area School District.

