



Parent and Family Engagement Plan 2019-2020



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What is Title I?

Ridgeview Charter Middle School participates in Title I, Part A, of the “Every Student Succeeds Act” (ESSA), which supports state and local school efforts to challenge academic standards by reinforcing and enhancing efforts to improve teaching and learning for all students. Our Title I School-wide program requires effective means of improving student achievement by including strategies to support family engagement.

A Parent and Family Engagement Plan

What is it? This is a plan that outlines how Ridgeview Charter Middle School will provide opportunities to improve family engagement to support student learning. We value the contributions and involvement of parents and family members to establish a partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes the different ways that Ridgeview will support family 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 revised? Ridgeview invited all parents to attend our annual Parent and Stakeholder Title I Input Meeting on March 20, 2019, to review and revise this parent and family engagement plan along with the school-wide plan, our school-family compact, and the family engagement budget. Additionally, parent input and comments regarding this plan were and are welcome during the school year through in-person comments at Parent University workshops and/or through feedback provided in person or via e-mail through our Parent Resource Center at any time. All parent feedback received during the year will be used to revise the plan for the next school year.

Who is it for? All students participating in the Title I, Part A program, and their families are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. Ridgeview’s Title I program is “school-wide,” and thus each student and family member is part of our Title I, Part A program. Ridgeview will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents and family members with limited English.

Where is it available? Our Parent and Family engagement plan is posted on our school website for the entire community at the beginning of the year for viewing and feedback throughout the school year, and it is distributed to families through our newsletter and homeroom classes. We provide our Parent and Family engagement plan to participants at our Annual Title I Parent meeting, and we have it available to visitors to our Parent Resource Center. Community members may also pick up copies at The Catholic Center (Sandy Springs), and apartment offices in the surrounding area.

The Importance of Parent and Family Engagement

Ridgeview believes that family engagement means the participation of parents and family members in regular two-way, meaningful communication involving student academic learning and social-emotional learning as well as about school activities and events. We want parents to know the importance of their integral role in assisting their child’s learning by being actively involved both at home and at school. We believe it is vital for parents to establish weekly or bi-weekly routines at home of conferencing with students about their academic progress by reviewing Infinite Campus grades and Google Classroom assignment information to continuously monitor their child’s academic progress.

Parent Resource Center

We invite you to visit Ms. Sara Good, Title I Parent Liaison, in Ridgeview Charter Middle School’s Parent Resource Center Monday-Friday from 8:00a.m. – 4:00p.m. We welcome your ongoing feedback at any time in our Parent Resource Center to help us further improve our Title I services. Ridgeview’s Parent Resource Center is provided as a valuable location for parents and families to check out materials and activities that are available for parents to explore as educational resources.

Ridgeview is committed to helping our parents and families attend school activities listed in this plan as well as others. Please call or e-mail our Parent Resource Center if you need assistance with child care or transportation in order to participate in our programs: goods@fultonschools.org or (470) 254-8589.

2017-2022 District and Ridgeview Charter Middle School Goals

Fulton County Schools will prepare all students to graduate ready to pursue and succeed on their chosen paths. Learn more about the FCS strategic plan at <https://www.fu.tonschools.org/domain/282>. Specifically in Middle Schools, we (Ridgeview) will: By 2022, 65% of 8th grade students will perform at or above the 50th percentile on the nationally-normed IOWA core subject assessments. By 2022, 80% of 8th grade students will read at or above grade level.

Tools Ridgeview Utilizes to Support Parent and Family Engagement

Ridgeview will take the following measures to promote and support parents and family members as an important foundation of the school. We will:

- Endeavor to consistently provide information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other school-wide events/activities published in English and Spanish, posted on the school website, included in our Panther Tales weekly newsletter e-mailed to families.
- Utilize Google Classroom to post student work and assignments and provide parents information through homeroom teachers about creating a parent account in Google Classroom so that parents and families can receive daily or weekly summaries of student academic work.
- Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding school-wide events and activities through phone messages, the weekly Panther Tales newsletter e-mailed to families, social media, flyers, and e-mails.
- Provide training for staff each semester on strategies to improve communication with parents and ideas to increase family engagement with activities and resources to support students at home.
- Partner with parents and family members, community agencies, and school guidance counselors to provide college and career ready resources to students in classroom guidance lessons, the annual career fair, and through the college fair hosted at Ridgeview each fall.
- Provide informative materials and handouts for parents at conferences, meetings, and activities to assist parents in improving their child's academics.
- Offer literacy, language, or computer classes as needed for parents and family members to help enhance their educational levels.
- Collect feedback from parents and family members at events and take feedback at any point in time through our Parent Resource Center.

School-Family Compact: The School-Family Compact is an agreement between parents, teachers and students outlining how we will work together to ensure all children at RCMS reach school and district goals as well as the state's high standards. Parents and the entire school staff review and update our School-Family Compact annually based on feedback from our annual Title I Input Meeting, surveys, and in-person comments/discussion sessions conducted at Title I Parent Workshops. School-Family Compacts will be available on our website, in the Parent Resource Center, and available upon request from the Parent Liaison.

Title I Budget & Reservation of Funds: Stakeholders at Ridgeview Charter Middle School are invited to share in the decision making regarding how Title I funds, including reserve funds, are spent. Ridgeview will use Title I funding to impact all students in these ways: Additional teachers and paraprofessionals to reduce class sizes, Academic Support Programs, Parent Resource Center, and Professional Development. 1% of funds are set aside for parent engagement activities such as Parent Resource Center materials, childcare, or classes for parents. Parents are encouraged to give feedback at the Title I Input Meeting, in school surveys, and in-person comments/discussion sessions conducted at Title I Parent Workshops. The Title I Budget is presented at our Annual Title I Meeting & Title I Input Meeting.

Building Staff Capacity: The Parent Liaison works to educate teachers and staff with the assistance of parents in building capacity of staff at least one time each semester. The goal is for parents to work as equal partners by being involved in the implementation and coordination of programs so ties can be established between home and school. Parents are invited to complete the School Community Team Interest Form (see last page).

Building Parent Capacity: Parent University offerings and other events are designed to provide information about our curriculum, assessments, and expected student achievement levels. Ridgeview utilizes the Georgia Standards of Excellence; an International Baccalaureate lens to plan that state-required curriculum; specific writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading strategies to instruct those needed skills; and assesses student mastery through IB projects, iReady screening assessments, teacher's unit assessments, and the Georgia Milestones Assessment System.

Let's Get Together at Ridgeview!

Ridgeview Charter Middle School holds the following events to build strong parent and family engagement to support a partnership among the school, parents, students, and the community to improve student academic achievement.

- Monthly Parent University Workshops
- Annual Title I Parent Meeting: September 5, 2019, at 5:00 p.m.
- Ridgeview's Open House & Curriculum Night: September 5, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.
- Future Raider Night at the Riverwood Home Football Game: September 6, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.
- Pantherpalooza presented by the Ridgeview Foundation: September 20, 2019, 4:30-7:30 p.m. on the RCMS Soccer Field
- College Fair: Thursday, October 3, 2019, 6:00 p.m. in the Ridgeview Gym
- Hispanic Heritage Community Dinner: Wednesday, October 16, 2019, 5:00 p.m.
- Principal's Coffee & Town Hall: Wednesday, October 23, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.
- Annual Title I Input Meeting: Thursday, March 26th, at 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Additional events, activities, or changes in times or locations of these listed above will likely occur. Ridgeview communicates about events through postings to our website, through our weekly Panther Tales Newsletter e-mailed to families, and through social media on Facebook and Twitter.

Parent Teacher Conferences: Parents are welcome at any time to contact their student's homeroom teacher or their student's guidance counselor to schedule a parent/teacher conference.

Classroom Observations: Parents may request to visit a classroom for an observation by contacting the student's grade-level assistant principal.

Transition Activities for 6th graders: Each spring Ridgeview hosts Rising 6th grade activities for students and parents. Rising 6th grade students visit with their elementary school teachers and peers for a "field trip" to Ridgeview. Rising 6th grade parents are provided an evening meeting to learn about "A Day in the Life of a 6th Grader." A social for students and parents occurs the Friday evening of the Spring Play in April. The feeder elementary schools offer parent panels called "What I Wish I Had Known to Prepare for 6th Grade" each spring as well.

Transition Activities for 8th graders: Each spring Riverwood hosts Rising 8th grade activities for students and parents including a field trip for students to visit Riverwood, several parent meetings to orient parents, and more. Ridgeview endeavors to work closely with Riverwood to provide as much timely information as possible about those activities.

Get Involved! Be Part of the Ridgeview Charter Middle School Community Team

Ridgeview Charter Middle School invites all parents, teachers/staff, and community members to join our School Community Team. We invite you to share ideas and ways to involve other parents and family members to help build partnerships with our school, families, and the community. The team will be invited to meet at least once each semester, but parents and family members are welcome to submit their ideas/suggestions at any school activity or by emailing/calling the Title I Parent Liaison. If you would like to learn more about the School Community Team, please contact Sara Good at goods@fultonschools.org or (470) 254-8589 or complete the School Community Team interest form (below), and leave it in the front office.

- ♦ If you would like to be a Community or Business Partner and would like to help our school with parental involvement activities, please complete a card below. Ridgeview welcomes all community-based organizations and businesses.
- ♦ If you are a parent who would like to be involved in attending a professional development training session with our teachers, mentoring another parent, or would like to attend a Building Staff Capacity training with the Parent Liaison, please indicate in the card below.



School Community Team Interest Form

- Yes, I am interested and wish to join the School Community Team
- Please contact me so I can learn about the School Community Team
- Please send me notifications about future meetings and updates
- I would like to be a Community / Business Partner
- I am interested in attending a professional development training, mentoring another parent, and/or attending a training with the Parent Liaison

Parent Name: _____

Child's Name: _____

Grade: _____ Homeroom Teacher: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Thank you for your interest!

Share Your Thoughts

We want to hear from you! If you have any suggestions or if any part of this plan is not satisfactory to our students or school goals to achieve academic success, please provide your comments in the space below. Please return this portion at to the Ridgeview Charter Middle School Front Office.

Name (optional): _____

Phone/Email (optional): _____

Comments:

Thank you for your comments/questions!