



Parent and Family Engagement Plan

Finley Middle School is committed to providing all children a significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education. To this end, we want to establish partnerships with parents and with the community. Everyone gains if Finley Middle School and homes work together to provide activities and programs that promote students' development, learning, and wellness. Parents play an extremely important role as children's first teachers. Support for their children and for the school is critical to children's success at every step along the way.

Finley Middle School recognizes that some students may need the extra assistance available through the Title I program to reach the state's high academic standards. Finley Middle School intends to include parents in all aspects of the school's Title I program. The goal is a school-home partnership that will help all students to succeed.

Annual Meeting

Finley Middle School will hold its Annual Meeting for all parents at the beginning of the year. Parents are notified of the meeting through:

- Notices will be sent home
- Phone call to all parents by School Messenger system and/or parents/teachers making personal calls

To maximize parent participation, the Annual Meeting is held in conjunction with Fall Conferences. This is a convenient time for parents, and conferences are widely attended. Students may accompany parents to classrooms. Topics to be discussed include:

- An explanation of the school's curriculum, its many programs, and the state's content standards
- An explanation of assessment scores including iReady and/or SBA
- Title I participation at a schoolwide, its services, and parents' rights
- Description of core and supplementary curriculum materials and on-going academic assessment

Flexible Schedule of Meetings

Finley Middle School has a strong belief in the importance of parental involvement and therefore has put measures in place to offer parent meetings on a flexible schedule. We will offer parenting classes and family involvement activities in partnership with 21st Century, Gear Up, Communities in Schools, and Americorp at varying times before, during, and after school. Classes and activities include:

- Teachers are available before and after school each day to schedule meetings with families.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled to accommodate the work hours of parents and are flexible.

- Parent education and family involvement activities such as Family Learning Fair, Literacy Night, and Open House are family engagement opportunities offered during evening hours.

Involvement of Parents in Planning, Review, and Improvement of Title I Program

Finley Middle School strives to involve parents in its Title I program. Our widely attended Fall Conferences and Back-To-School Nights are used as vehicles to work with parents on developing the focus for school improvement planning and how families/parents can support the school's academic initiatives. In addition, parents will have the opportunity to review the plan and offer their input. Each year, the Schoolwide Plan, Parent Engagement Plan, and Title I Compact are reviewed and evaluated by staff.

Timely Information about the Title I Program, the Curriculum, and Academic Assessments Used

In the beginning of the year, our classroom teachers will hold a meeting for parents during Back-to-School Night and/or Fall Conferences where information will be presented about the Title I program, the curriculum, and how we are meeting the academic needs of students showcasing our SBA results. Parents receive an overview of the Schoolwide Program, and we will describe the programs and interventions which maximize student learning. They will be encouraged to schedule informal and formal parent-teacher conferences as well as participate in decisions related to the education of their child. The Schoolwide Plan will be available on the school website and a hard copy is available upon request. The school will partner with parents to develop and implement enrichment programs in the school.

Submission of Parent Concerns on the Schoolwide Plan

The school PLC/Leadership team reviews, evaluates, and revises its Schoolwide Plan. The school reaches out to parents to review and provide input on the plan. The school notices will highlight important changes to the plan or announce any upcoming parent/family involvement activities. The plan is available for review on the school website and a hard copy is available upon request. In addition, the plan is presented to the School Board annually. Parents will have the right to submit their concerns in writing to the school, and the school will submit their concerns to the district office for a resolution.

School-Parent Compacts

Finley Middle School revised its school-parent compact in October of 2021. The compact is used as a goal-setting tool during fall conferences. In addition, it includes an area for personalized goals. The compact was developed through a coordinated effort by school staff members, our educational leadership team, PTG, and community partners who happened to be attending at the original compact planning meeting. All parents and students will be given a copy of the compact at our fall goal-setting conferences where they are asked to sign the compacts signifying their commitment to working in partnership with the school and their child in ensuring that their child is successful in school.

Building Teachers' and Parents' Capacity for Strong Parental Involvement

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among Finley Middle School, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, we shall:

1. Offer training for parents of participating children in understanding such topics as the state's academic standards and assessment benchmarks; how to interpret district and state academic assessment information; the requirements of Title I; how to monitor their child's progress; and how to work with teachers to improve

the achievement of their children. We will accomplish much of this through the Annual Parent Meeting held at the beginning of the school year. At that time, parents will receive an overview of our state's achievement standards and assessments. In addition, an explanation will be given regarding Title I, what services will be offered, and how parents have the right to be involved in their children's education.

2. Provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement. Throughout the year, parenting classes will be offered on various topics including, but are not limited to creating a home learning environment, working as a partner with your child's teacher, and health and safety tips. Resources may also be offered in other formats, such as online.
3. Educate teachers, office personnel, and other school staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school. We will continue to work with its teachers through in-services, faculty meetings, and grade-level meetings in understanding the importance of parental involvement and that parents are our partners. All staff are expected to welcome parents to the school, as appropriate, and to work with our Communities in Schools partners in meeting parents' needs for their children.
4. To the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other federal programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.
5. Ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. Finley Middle School has bilingual translators, secretaries, and staff members who routinely offer their assistance in reaching out to families who do not speak English to invite them to school functions or family activities.
6. Finley Middle School makes every effort to work with parents in meeting their requests as related to their involvement in their children's education. We will provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request.

Participation of LEP/ELL Parents, Parents with Disabilities, and Parents of Migratory Children

Finley Middle School, to the extent practicable, provides opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency and parents with disabilities. Finley Middle School presently has 20% Limited English-speaking students. Bilingual translators are available to help with oral and written communication. Every effort is made to accommodate parents with disabilities. We offer a variety of communication options including in-person, email, Zoom, and phone. Our website is ADA compliant to accommodate our parents who are visually impaired. In addition, we offer closed captioning options via Zoom meetings.

Parenting, Communicating, Volunteering, and Learning at Home

Based on input from parents, community, and staff, we are planning several home-school connections for this year. We have four areas of focus, based on the Johns Hopkins researched-based model of school, family, and community partnerships:

- Parenting
- Communicating
- Volunteering
- Learning at home

Parenting: Assist families with parenting skills and setting home conditions to support as students. Also, assist schools to better understand families.

- Reset Families parenting classes will be offered in English and Spanish. Childcare and light refreshments will be available to remove barriers to attendance.
- Bilingual Communities in Schools staff members are available to assist families with connecting to community resources and setting home conditions to support students.

Communicating: Conduct effective communications from school-to-home and from home-to-school about school programs and student progress.

- Utilize a variety of communication methods: Newsletters, school website, Facebook page, School Messenger calling system.
- All key documents are translated into Spanish.

Volunteering: Organize volunteers and audiences to support the school and students.

- Actively reach out and encourage parents and community members to volunteer.
- Partner with Communities in Schools and 21st Century to partner to engage community members and parents to take a more active role in supporting their school community.

Learning at Home: Involve families with their children on homework and other curriculum-related activities and decisions.

- Explore options using technology to support learning at home.

