



HOWARD MIDDLE SCHOOL  
 6600 FORSYTH ROAD  
 MACON, GEORGIA 31210

**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY  
 2015-2016**

Mr. Lindsey Allen, Principal

Candy Lucas, Parent Involvement Coordinator  
 478-779-3500  
[www.bcsdk12.net/howard](http://www.bcsdk12.net/howard)

Revision Date: August 18, 2015

**WHAT IS TITLE I?**

Howard Middle is identified as a Title I School as part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of April 1965. Title I is designed 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. All Title I schools must jointly develop, with their parents, a written parental involvement policy and schoolwide program plan to strengthen student academic achievement.

**District Goals**

All students will reach high standards, at a minimum attaining proficiency or better in reading/language arts and mathematics on the state assessment.

The graduation rate will increase by at least five percent (5%) each school year.

**School Goals**

**Math**

By the end of the 2015-2016 SY, based on the Georgia Milestones Assessment, there will be an increase in the percentage of students meeting typical/high growth on the Math EOG/EOC, from 53% in 2014 to 60% or more in 2016.

**Reading**

By the end of the 2015-2016, based on the Georgia Milestones, there will be an increase in the percentage of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students attaining a Lexile score of 1050 or higher from 72% in 2014 to 77% in 2016.

**School-Parent Compact**

The School-Parent Compact is jointly developed by the teachers, parents and students. Our compact is an agreement between the school, parents and students stating what each party will do to ensure that all students make academic achievement. The compact will be reviewed and updated based on feedback from parents, students and teachers. The school-parent compact will be kept at home as a vital reminder of their agreement. Teachers will keep a copy on file and additional copies as needed.

**Parent, Teachers, and Students will  
 Share Responsibility for Success**

**What is this policy?** This policy explains how Howard Middle School will provide various opportunities for parental involvement. At Howard, we value parental input and involvement through which student confidence in success is built. Parents are encouraged to assist with the planning of activities to promote student achievement.

**How is it developed?** Parents are invited to attend several meetings, focus groups and the annual School Improvement Forum in the spring to review and revise this policy, the Schoolwide Improvement Plan, School Compact and parental involvement budget. These meetings are scheduled at convenient times. Additionally, parent input and comments regarding this plan are welcome during the school year through an online comment card. Parental feedback received will be used to revise the plan for the next school year. We also distribute an annual survey in the spring to ask parents for their suggestions on the policy and use of funds for parent involvement.

**Who is the policy for?** Our policy is available for all students participating in the Title I program, and their families are encouraged and invited to fully participate in a decision making role, as appropriate, in the opportunities offered in the plan. Howard Middle School will provide an equal opportunity for the participation of families with limited English, parents with disabilities and parents of migratory children. The Neglected and Delinquent Residential Facilities in the district are included in the parental involvement correspondence and activities.

**Where is the policy available?** The policy will be posted on the school website, in the front office of the school, in the media center, principal office, and the Parent Resource Center, Room 120. Copies will be available at parent meetings and events throughout the year.

**Parental Involvement**

Howard Middle School will take the following measures to promote and support parents as an important foundation of the school in order to strengthen the school and reach our school goals. We will —

- ✓ Ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is timely and published in both English and Spanish, as needed, on the school website and newsletters.
- ✓ Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis about school meetings and events such as by mail, flyers, emails, and school messenger as appropriate.
- ✓ Conduct staff development on parent involvement practices and effective strategies for staff to work with parents as equal partners during grade level meetings, staff meetings, emails, and communicating with parent tips in the weekly Howard Middle e-newsletter.
- ✓ Partner with our zone elementary and high schools to coordinate and integrate parent involvement activities to support the transition of rising 6th and 9th graders. Parents are invited to tour their respective school and participate in workshops to learn what to expect the next school year.
- ✓ Provide a Parent Resource Center and workshops with necessary materials and training for parents to gain an understanding of academic standards, curriculum, assessments and ways to monitor their child’s progress.
- ✓ Listen and respond to parents’ requests for additional support for parental involvement activities through parent evaluations at meetings and the online “Share Your Ideas” card on the school website. Submit parent feedback about any part of this plan that is not satisfactory to the student’s and school’s goals for academic achievement to the local Title I office.

**Involvement Opportunities**

- Awards Program
- Book Fair / Field Day
- Fundraising
- PTO
- Volunteer in Media Center
- Volunteer in Classrooms
- Family Nights

All volunteers are welcome at Howard Middle School. Volunteers must complete a volunteer packet located in the front office or come visit our our Parent Resource Center (Room 120).  
Candy Lucas, Family Engagement Facilitator  
478-779-2521

**Involvement Opportunities**

The following events will be offered to parents to strengthen parental involvement. Support by the school, parents, and community partners will encourage student success when all are actively engaged in the education of our students.

- **Annual Title I Meeting and Curriculum Night: August 25, 2015**  
Parents will receive important information regarding the Title I School-Wide Improvement Plan, the School Parental Involvement Policy and the School-Parent Compact. The Georgia Standards of Excellence will be discussed. Parents will receive a course syllabus and hear about expectations for the coming year.
- **Communication Modules: September 22, 2015, October 20, 2015 and January 20, 2016** Principals, faculty and staff, with the assistance of parents will meet, discuss and share information on how to build stronger ties between home and school.
- **National Parental Involvement Day / Parent Coffee—November 19, 2015 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 am & 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Parents will learn how monitor their child’s progress using Parent Portal, an online grades, attendance and behavior report. Discover how to use technology, the school website and teacher webpages to assist with homework and other school projects.
- **Literacy Training - Math & Reading / Parent Coffee — December 8, 2015 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 am & 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Hands on breakout session to include areas of emphasis in math and reading.
- **Annual Parent Engagement Survey: February 1-12, 2016**  
Parents will have the opportunity to share feedback about the parental involvement program activities and budget.
- **Georgia Milestones Assessment Workshop / Parent Coffee— March 2016 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 am & 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**  
Presenter will share test-taking strategies and test information.
- **School Improvement Forum: March 15, 2016 & April 19, 2016**  
Parents are offered the opportunity to provide input and feedback regarding Howard’s Schoolwide Improvement Plan, Parental Involvement Policy, School-Parent Compact, and parental involvement budget.
- **Transition Workshops: May 2016** - Parents of rising 5th and 8th graders come and learn expectations for your child entering Middle and High School.
- **Parent Teacher Conferences:** Parents and teachers are encouraged to schedule conferences throughout the school year in order to monitor their child’s achievement.
- **HMS School Council Meeting Dates:** The meetings will start at 8:00 a.m. and end promptly at 10:00 a.m.

September 16, 2015    November 10, 2015  
March 2, 2016        May 11, 2016