NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
TITLE I PARENT AND STUDENT HANDBOOK

Indian Creek Middle School

2020-2021
Marc Dastous, Principal
Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and Students,

We welcome you to the School-wide Title I Program at Indian Creek Middle. We are excited about providing the best educational experience for your child and we look forward to an exciting school year. Enclosed you will find several items of information concerning the Title I program:

1. Title I Brochure
2. Newton County School System Parent and Family Engagement Policy
3. School Parent and Family Engagement Policy
4. School-Parent Compact
5. Title I Parent Information Letter/School’s Designation (if any)
6. Parent’s Right to Know Letter
7. Complaint Procedures
8. Fraud, Waste, Abuse, and Corruption Policy
9. Occupational Survey
10. Homeless Brochure

Please sign and immediately return the following forms to your child’s school.
   1. Letter of Notification - (Gold Form)
   2. School-Parent Compact-(Gold Form)
   3. Occupational Survey (Gold Form)

If you have questions about the Title I program, please contact the principal, Marc Dastous at 770-385-6453 or email at dastous.marc@newton.k12.ga.us

Thank you for your support of Title I program at Indian Creek Middle.

Sincerely,

Marc Dastous
Principal

********************************************************************

Please sign and return

______________________________________________  ______________
Student’s name                                    Date

______________________________________________  ______________
Parent’s Signature                               Date
Indian Creek Middle School
11051 South Covington Bypass Road
Covington, Georgia 30014
(770) 385-6453

School-Parent Compact
Indian Creek Middle School
School Year 2020 - 2021
Revision Date 07/30/2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Indian Creek Middle School, students participating in the Title I, Part A program, and their families, agree that this compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement as well as describes how the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the challenging State academic standards. Please review the attached School-Parent Compact.

Please sign and date below to acknowledge that you have read, received, and agree to this School-Parent Compact. Once signed, please return the form to your child’s teacher and keep the School-Parent Compact as a reminder of your commitment. The School-Parent Compact will be discussed with you throughout the year at different school-family events as we work together to help your child succeed in school. We look forward to our school-parent partnership!

Sincerely,

Mr. Marc Dastous
Principal

Teachers Signature: __________________________ Date: ______________

Parent/Guardian Signature: __________________________ Date: ______________

Student Signature: __________________________ Date: ______________
Parent Occupational Survey
Please complete this form to determine if your child(ren) qualify to receive supplemental services under Title I, Part C

Name of Student(s)       Name of School       Grade
____________________________________   ______________________________________  ______________________________________
____________________________________   ______________________________________  ______________________________________
____________________________________   ______________________________________  ______________________________________

1. Has anyone in your household moved in order to work in another city, county, or state, in the last three (3) years?   ☐ Yes  ☐ No

2. Has anyone in your household been involved in one of the following occupations, either full or part-time or temporarily during the last three (3) years?   ☐ Yes  ☐ No

If you answer “yes”, check all that applies:
☐ 1) Planting/Picking vegetables (tomatoes, squash, onions, etc.) or fruits (grapes, strawberries, blueberries, etc.)
☐ 2) Planting, growing, cutting, processing trees (pulpwood), or raking pine straw
☐ 3) Processing/Packing agricultural products
☐ 4) Dairy/Poultry/Livestock
☐ 5) Packaging/Processing meats (beef, poultry, or seafood)
☐ 6) Commercial fishing or fish farms
☐ 7) Other (Please specify occupation): __________________________________________________________

Names of Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s) ______________________________________________________________

Current Address: ____________________________________________________________

City: ___________________ State: ___________ Zip Code: ___________ Phone: ___________________

Thank You! Please return this form to the school

Please maintain original copy in your files.

MEP funded school/district: Please give this form to the migrant liaison or migrant contact for your school/district.

Non-MEP funded (consortium) school/districts: When at least one “yes” and one or more of the boxes from 1 to 7 is/are checked, districts should fax occupational surveys to the Regional Migrant Education Program Office serving your district. For additional questions regarding this form, please call the MEP office serving your district:

GaDOE Region 1 MEP, 201 West Lee Street, Brooklet, GA 30415
Toll Free (800) 621-5217  Fax (912) 842-5440

GaDOE Region 2 MEP, 221 N. Robinson Street, Lenox, GA 31637
Toll Free (866) 505-3182  Fax (229) 546-3251

Family Contacted/Attempt Date: ___________    Sent to Regional Office on: ___________
PARENT

Resource Room

WHAT IS IT?
A Parent Resource Room or section is located at each Title I School. It is a place developed for the purpose of making the school more accessible to families by providing you with educational tools and resources to encourage learning beyond the school day.

WHAT’S AVAILABLE IN THE PARENT RESOURCE ROOM?

• Parent Engagement Brochures
• Subject Area Materials
• Leveled Reading Books
• Math Manipulatives
• ....And Much More

WHEN IS THE RESOURCE ROOM AVAILABLE AT MY CHILD’S SCHOOL?

Please contact your child’s school’s Title I Parent Contact to find out more about the parent resource room at your child’s school.
A PARENT’S GUIDE TO TITLE I

Welcome to our school!

We are one of Newton County Schools providing instruction to students through a Title I Schoolwide Program. The information that follows is intended to assist parents and the community in understanding what it means for our school to have a Title I Schoolwide Program.

What is a Title I?

Title I is a part of the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The Act provides financial assistance to state and local education agencies to meet the educational needs of children who may be at risk of failing the state’s performance standards.

What is a Title I Schoolwide Program?

A School-Wide Program uses Title I funds to develop and maintain quality educational services in the core academic areas in order to raise academic achievement for all students at the school.

What are the benefits of a Schoolwide Program?

The benefits that our school receives by having a Title I School-Wide Program include:
  o Flexibility in having personnel provide instruction to students.
  o ALL students can have their academic needs met.
  o ALL staff can participate in professional development.
All of our energies and resources are directed toward helping every student in our school meet and exceed state performance standards.

Parent and Family Engagement at Our School

Our staff understands the importance of involving parents as partners in the education of their children. As a Title I school, we encourage parent support of student instruction through learn-at-home activities and school level volunteer opportunities. Additional focal points for parent involvement include development of parenting skills, communication styles and community collaboration. The following are ways we invite and encourage parents to be involved at your child’s school:

- Increasing Parent Awareness by providing each parent a copy of the district and school parent and family engagement policies.
- Encouraging each parent to sign and fulfill the harmony of the School-Parent Compact.
- Providing a voice for parent by participating in Parent Surveys and input meetings.
- Building school and community support by hosting parent meetings and workshops.
- Providing parents with Rights to Know information concerning Teacher Certification status.
Please visit our website to gain more information about Newton County School System’s Title I Program.

- Parent and Family Engagement
- Title I Department Personnel
- Title I, Part A-Schoolwide Programs
- Title I, Part A-Targeted Assistance Programs
- Title I, Part A-Reward Schools
- Title I, Part C-Migrant Education
- Title III-EL/Immigrant Education
- Title IX, Part A-Homeless Education Program
- Title I Resources
- Fraud Procedures
- Complaints and Procedures

Recommended websites for parents and students:

- www.newtoncountyschools.org - Locate information about departments, programs and schools within the county. Learn more about the State Title I Program.

- https://campus.newton.k12.ga.us/campus/portal/newton.jsp- Provides parents access to accurate, current and confidential information about students’ school attendance, grades, class assignments, and more on the Infinite Campus portal. Login information is provided by each school of attendance.

For more information, contact the following:

**Dr. Shelia Thomas** – Chief Strategy and Community Outreach
tomashlia@newton.k12.ga.us
770-787-1330 ext. 1250

**Dr. Cara Richardson** – Parent Involvement and Compliance Coordinator
richardson.cara@newton.k12.ga.us
770-787-1330 ext. 1228
2109 Newton Drive
Covington, GA 30014
What is Family Engagement?

Family Engagement means the participation of parents and family members in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

(A) That parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning.

(B) That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education.

(C) That parents are full partners in their child’s education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.

(D) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA.

About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Newton County School System (NCSS) has developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the district’s expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district’s Title I schools. This plan will describe NCSS’s commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals.

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and enjoy school more. Title I, Part A provides for substantive family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children’s education. Consistent with Section 1116, the NCSS will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.
Jointly Developed

During each Title I School’s Annual Revision and Development meeting, all parents are invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve the LEA’s Parent and Family Engagement Policy for the 2020-2021 school year. The school sent a letter to all parents informing them about the meeting and posted an announcement on their school’s website. During the meeting, parents also reviewed and discussed, the development of the School Parent and Family Engagement Policy in addition to the CLIP, the School-Parent Compact, the 1% Parent Allocation, Building Staff Capacity, and the Title I Schoolwide Plan.

Upon final revision, the district parental involvement policy was incorporated into the CLIP, which was submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time on the district’s website or by submitting written comments to their child’s school. All feedback received was considered when revising policy for this school year.

The district’s parental involvement policy was posted on the district websites, distributed as part of the Title I Parent Involvement Handbooks at the beginning of the school year and made available in the school’s resource centers.

Strengthening Our School

This year, the district Parent Involvement Coordinator (PIC) will provide assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district and the PIC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district and the PIC will hold meetings and trainings with its Title I Parent Contacts to provide technical assistance and review family engagement plans and activities.

The meetings and trainings include:
- Title I Parent Contact Orientation
- Title I Parent Contact Building Capacity Meeting
- Title I Parent Contacts Year-End Meeting

Reservation of Funds

The NCSS will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY20 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the district will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to Title I schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

Each Title I school will host an annual Revision and Development Meeting for parents to provide suggestions on how these family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school level. Comments and minutes from these meetings will be reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget.
Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents and family members and the community are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents of students attending a Title I school are invited to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.

**Parent and Student Title I Handbooks**
All Title I Parents receive a copy of the LEAs Parent and Family Engagement Policy at the beginning of each school year as part of the Parent and Student Title I Handbook. Parents are invited to complete the input form attached to the policy to provide input and return it to their child’s school. The Title I Parent Contact at each school collects the input forms and will submit them to the District’s PIC.

**District Website**
The LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) will be posted on the district’s website so that parents and the community can provide input on the family engagement budget and family engagement programs throughout the year. The PIC will send a district school messenger to encourage parents and the community to provide input.

**School-Level Revision and Development Meetings**
All parents and the community are welcome to review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement policy and the CLIP for the 2020-21 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be sent home to all parents in advance of the meeting.

Parent input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual district survey. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget as well as a section for parents to provide their comments.
Building Capacity

The NCSS will build the schools’ and parents’ capacity (Primary and Secondary Methods) for strong family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and family members and to support a partnership among the Title I schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement by building the capacity for effective family-school partnerships through meaningful parent meetings that are:

- Linked to Learning,
- Relational,
- Developmental,
- Collaborative, and
- Interactive

NCSS will work as a district and through its Title I schools to provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to their student’s learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I program. The NCSS will provide classes for parents to gain knowledge about the challenging state academic standards, local academic assessments, as well as the required assessments for Georgia students including alternative forms of assessment.

NCSS will provide materials and trainings in English and Spanish and in a language that the parent can understand. Each Title I school will provide information to assist parents with understanding the online student information system and other digital educational resources (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) during the Annual Title I Parent Orientation. Dates and times for the orientations will be determined and announced by each individual school.

NCSS’s District PIC will provide tools, resources, and materials to assist each Title I school to provide meaningful quarterly trainings to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff. The trainings will assist schools to reflect on current practices to recognize strengths and opportunities for improvements and implement a parent and family engagement program that cultivates effective family-school partnerships.

NCSS will coordinate and integrate the district’s family engagement programs with the local preschool program and other federal funded preschool programs in the district by inviting faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on family engagement activities. In the spring, the elementary schools will host Kindergarten Round-Up days so parents may tour the schools and receive information to help prepare them and their children for kindergarten. The district will also coordinate with these programs to ensure that parents are informed about available resources. In addition, Newton County School System works with multiple agencies to ensure efforts are coordinated on behalf of meeting the needs of migrant, homeless, immigrant, ELL, neglected and delinquent, at risk, early childhood students and military related families.

NCSS’s District PIC will conduct a Title I Contacts Building Parent Capacity Meeting for Title I Parent Contacts to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. These trainings and/or best practices will be redelivered to the faculty and staff of Title I schools.

NCSS ensures that information related to district, school, parent meetings, and activities is available to all parents. Each Title I school is required to send home and post online information for parents and family members in an understandable language and uniform format. Title I Parent Contacts will be trained to assist their schools on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents’ native language, where applicable, and providing interpreters at parent meetings. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school phone call systems, district and school websites, local news media, and other school message systems to post information for parents.
Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, the NCSS will conduct an evaluation of the content effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy and the parent engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey and Annual Parent Revision and Development Stakeholders Input Meeting.

Beginning each April, each Title I school will send home a survey flyer to inform parents of the district’s online Parent Involvement Survey that starts in the spring. All parents are invited to participate in the survey made available on the district and school’s websites.

In addition to the online survey, a hard copy of the survey is provided to parents who have limited or no technology to access the survey. Copies of the survey are provided in Spanish. Copies of the survey will be made available in other languages upon parent request.

NCSS will use the information from the school-level stakeholders meetings and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement policies.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district parent involvement coordinator will communicate and collaborate with the Office for Student Support Services to ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children including providing information and school reports in a language parents can understand.

Adoption

This districtwide parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel at the annual school-level revision and development meetings.

This policy was adopted by the Newton County School System on July 31, 2020 and will be in effect for the 2020-2021 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 30, 2020.
Newton County School System encourages parent input and comments at any time regarding the parent and family engagement policy. All parent feedback will be used to revise the current policy for the next school year. The policy is posted on the district’s website and paper copies are available at the Board Office. We administer an annual survey for all parents to provide feedback and make any suggestions that parents find important. Parents may also offer feedback at their child’s school revision meeting held in the spring.

If you have any suggestions or if there is any part of this plan that you feel is not satisfactory, please provide us with your comments in the space provided and leave this form in the main office of your child’s school:

Name (optional) ____________________________________________
Phone (optional) ____________________________
Comments: ____________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
If you have any questions or concerns please contact:

Office of Federal Programs
Parent Involvement Coordinator
(770)787-1330 ext. 1228
School Plan for Shared Student Achievement

What is it?
This policy describes how Indian Creek will provide opportunities to improve parent engagement to support student learning. Indian Creek values the contributions and involvement of parents in order to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes the different ways that Indian Creek 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?
Indian Creek welcomes parent input and comments at any time regarding the plan. All parent feedback will be used to revise the plan for the next school year. All parents are invited and welcome to provide feedback throughout the year as well as the Title I Revision meeting that was held at the end of the school year. In this meeting, parents and teachers discussed, reviewed and gave input to revise this School Parent Family and Engagement Policy, the Title I School-wide Plan, School-Parent Compact, Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP), 1% Budget Allocation of Funds, and District Parental Involvement Policy. The policy is posted on our school website for parents to view and post feedback throughout the year. We also distribute an annual online survey to ask parent for their suggestions on the plan and the use of funds for parent involvement. Parents can also give feedback during our Parent Involvement meetings throughout the year. Indian Creek holds quarterly Parent and Family meetings where parents can give feedback on this policy. All feedback received throughout the year will be used to revise the policy for next school year.

Who is it for?
Indian Creek has a Title I school wide program. All students and their families at Indian Creek are encouraged to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. ICMS will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents with limited English, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.

Where is it available?
At the beginning of the year, the plan will be given to all students in their Title I information packets. The plan will be available at all Parent Involvement meetings and parent and teacher conferences throughout the school year. Parents can also retrieve a copy of the plan from the school website. A translated version will be available at Title I meetings and upon request.
Newton County Schools Goals

The mission of Newton County Schools is to provide educational excellence to all students. Our goal is increased student achievement.

ICMS Math School Goal
Increase student performance on the Math GA Milestones in grades 6-8, by 3%, by the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

6th – 8th Grade Areas of Emphasis
Improve math performance by focusing on building background knowledge, math computational skills, and vocabulary.

ICMS Reading School Goal
Increase student performance on the ELA GA Milestones in grades 6-8, by 3%, by the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

6th-8th Grade Areas of Emphasis
Improve literacy performance by focusing on reading comprehension strategies and vocabulary development.

School-Parent Compact
As part of this plan, Indian Creek and our families will develop a school-parent compact, which is an agreement that parents, teachers, and students will develop together that explains how parents and teachers will work together to make sure all our students reach grade-level standards. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students, and teachers during Parent Involvement meetings and parent teacher conferences.

Parent Engagement Program and Activities

Indian Creek will host multiple events to build the capacity for strong parental involvement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community. Parents will be informed of these events via flyers, emails, texts, school messengers, the school website, and the school marquee. We will offer these meetings at flexible times of the day, week, and year. Indian Creek will provide opportunity for the participation of parents with limited English, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children to attend.

Title I Annual Parent Orientation Meeting September 24, 2020
Parents will develop an understanding of the Title I program, Title I Funding, and Title I Parent Involvement Activities. The Elementary and Secondary Education Assistance Act, the Title I Parent Involvement Policy, and School-Parent Compact will be addressed.

Parent-Teacher Conferences October 2, 2020
Families and teachers will have the opportunity to discuss students’ progress as well as address the School-Parent Compact and Parent Policy.

Literacy Family Night October 15, 2020
Families will participate in interactive activities to learn comprehension strategies that support reading development. ELA, Science, and Social Studies teachers will model strategies that parents can use at home to support academic success. A variety of resources will be shared with families.

Math Family Night October 29, 2020
Teachers will model math strategies with hands-on activities that parents can use at home to increase student achievement. Each grade level will focus on first semester math concepts that align with the curriculum standards.

Parent-Teacher Conferences February 26, 2021
Families and Teachers will have the opportunity to discuss students’ progress as well as address the School-Parent Compact and Parent Policy.

Annual Title I Stakeholders’ Input and Revision Meeting March 11, 2020
Parents will review and provide feedback to revise the School & District Parent Family and Engagement Policies, the Title I School-wide Plan, School-Parent Compact, Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP), ways to build staff capacity, and 1% Budget Allocation of Funds for 2020-2021.
**Parent Resource Room**

The Parent Resource Center is located in the front office. Books, manipulatives, and activities will be available to check out to use at home with your student. The Parent Resource Center will host “Open House” sessions during Parent-Teacher conferences where parents can discover what is available for checkout and learn how to use the hands-on materials. Computers are available for parents to explore the Parent Portal and educational resources.

Monday-Friday 8:45 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

**Parent and Family Engagement**

At Indian Creek, parental involvement includes meaningful communication between parents, teachers, and students. Communication addresses student performance, academic achievement, upcoming school activities, and ensures

- *That parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning.*
- *That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their student’s academics.*
- *That parents are full partners in their student’s education and are included in decision-making and advisory committees to assist in their student’s education.*

**Building Capacity**

In order to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement, Indian Creek Middle School will…

- Ensure that all information related to school and parent programs are posted on the school website and communicated to parents through flyers, emails, texts, social media, and the school messenger.

- Provide assistance with Parent Portal (Infinite Campus) access for monitoring student progress and through frequent progress reports.

- Provide learning opportunities for parents through Parent and Family Engagement Workshops (including the harms of copyright piracy) that are linked to learning and tailored to meet the specific grade-level needs in the efforts to prepare their students for academic success.

- Have available materials and resources for parents at conference and parent and family engagement meetings to help parents work with their students to improve their academic achievement.

- The school will provide parents information on parent and family engagement from their website. Newsletters are parent resources are provided including educational websites in both English and Spanish.

- Build staff capacity to work with parents as equal partners by sharing best practices and effective strategies for staff to communicate and build partnerships with parents.

- Partner with elementary and high schools to share school information about parent engagement activities that will help prepare parents and their student for middle and high school transitions.

- Invite parents to the Parent Resource Center located in the Front Office. Families will be able to check out educational materials to use at home with their students.

- Provide information (including flyers, brochures, and parent notices) related to school and parent programs in English and Spanish.

- Listen and respond to parents’ requests for additional support for Parent and Family Engagement activities.

- Provide parents opportunities to provide feedback through surveys and Title I Parent Involvement Policy and Compact revision meetings.
Parental Involvement

At Indian Creek, parental involvement includes meaningful communication between parents, teachers, and students. Communication addresses student performance, academic achievement, upcoming school activities, and ensures

- That parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their student’s academics
- That parents are full partners in their student’s education and are included in decision-making and advisory committees to assist in their student’s education

Parent Supports for Student Achievement

An informed, engaged, and supportive family plays an instrumental role in a student's academic success. The Newton County School Systems supports families in partnerships with schools, district, and the community in the quest of achieving academic success for all students. It is our hope that this page will provide valuable information and resources to engage you as an active partner. The links below will provide you with various tools and resources to help support your child's learning.


Measures of Effectiveness

- **Parent Meeting Evaluation**—to gather feedback from the parents to evaluate the effectiveness of the meeting and to gain insight on parent academic support for future meetings.

- **Parent Survey Data**—to gain insight on ICMS effectiveness in meeting the needs of parents in various areas such as technology, parent workshop topics, and school climate so that we can create an environment that meets the needs of all parents and families.

- **Revision and Development Stakeholders Meeting**: to give all stakeholders the opportunity to give input to build the effectiveness on the:
  - Parent and Family Engagement Policy-School and District
  - School-Parent Compact
  - Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP)
  - Title I Schoolwide Plan
  - Building Staff Capacity
  - Parent Involvement 1% Funding

- **Student Outcomes**: to access if strategies and activities, as outlined on the school parent compacts, are effectively impacting student achievement.

- **Multiple Opportunities for Input**: ICMS will provide several opportunities for parents and families to give input on the effectiveness of the Title I Program. Parents can access our Title Schoolwide Plan, The Parent and Family Engagement Policy, and the School-Parent Compact on our school’s website. These documents are also located in our parent resource room located in the Media Center Conference room.
Stakeholders’ Input Form

We want to hear from you! If you have any suggestions or if there is any part of the schoolwide program plan that you feel needs to be adjusted, please provide us with your comments in the space provided and leave this form in the front office.

Name: (optional)  

Telephone Number (optional)
A parent-teacher conference is a meeting between you and your child's teacher to discuss your child's progress in school. The following are common questions that you may ask. Take this form to your next parent-teacher conference to help guide the dialogue between you and your child’s teacher(s).

- What is my child like in your class?
- What are my child's strengths?
- What are my child’s weaknesses?
- Is my child meeting grade expectations?
- Does my child get along with others?
- How well does my child participate in class discussions and activities?
- How is my child being assessed?
- What do the tests tell about my child's progress?
- Is my child engaging in activity that I would not approve of?
- Has my child missed any classes other than ones I contacted the school about?
- Is my child working up to his or her ability?
- Has my child done something that I would be proud of?
- How can I become more active in my child’s education?

Notes: ____________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

Follow-Up: _______________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
## What is a School-Parent Compact

It is a written commitment describing how all members of a school community agree to share responsibility for student learning. This compact helps bridge the learning connection between school and home.

## Activities to Build Partnerships

Indian Creek offers ongoing events and programs to provide parents and students with access to our staff: Open House, Parent Teacher Conferences, PTO Events, Title I Parent Meetings, After School Enrichment Program, School Council, and the Parent Resource Center.

### Upcoming Parent Meetings

- Title I Orientation August 20, 2020
- Math Family Night September 3, 2020
- Family Literacy Night October 1, 2020
- Title I Revision & Feedback Meeting March 4, 2021

## Jointly Developed

Parents, students, and school staff work together to develop our school-parent compact. Each school year, a parent meeting is held for parents, teachers, and students to revise the compact. The compact is also shared with the school council, faculty, and the Building Leadership Team to review progress and assess our goals. Parents can provide feedback on the compact at any time during the school year. Please contact Title I contact, Dr. Schmitt at 770-385-6453 or visit our web site:

www.newtoncountyschools.org/indian

## Communications About Student Learning

Indian Creek is committed to providing regular two-way communication with families through:

- Parent Portal
- School Website
- Student Agenda
- Quarterly Progress Reports
- Semester Report Cards
- Call Messenger
- Parent-Teacher Conferences: September 11, 2020 & February 5, 2021
- Title I Parent Meetings and Open House
- Telephone Messages/Texts, Email, Facebook, Twitter, Canvas.

Please contact us for volunteering and observation opportunities (770) 385-6453
Our Goals for Student Achievement

District Goal
Increase Student Achievement

Math School Goal
Increase student performance on the Math GA Milestones in grade 6 by 3% by the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

6th grade Math Focus Area
Computational Skills

Reading School Goal
Increase student performance on the ELA GA Milestones in grade 6 by 3% by the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

6th grade ELA/Reading Focus Area
Reading Comprehension Strategies

Teachers, Students, and Parents—Together for Success

Teachers/Schools

- Invite parents to the Parent Resource Center during parent conferences and parent meetings where parents can check out literacy and math educational materials to help their students at home with reading comprehension and math computation.
- Utilize online resources from the school website and BrainPop to improve reading comprehension and math computational skills.
- Place Reading Badges on the school’s website to provide parents with additional support that encourages their child to read and build stamina for informational text to support understanding.
- Host interactive Literacy and Math Parent Workshops and parent conferences focusing on literacy and math skills and to share areas in their academics that need to be developed.

Families

- Visit the Parent Resource Center during parent conferences and parent meetings to checkout reading materials and math activities to help my student develop reading comprehension and computational skills.
- Visit BrainPop and other recommended resources with my student that support reading comprehension and math computational skills to help my student progress in the areas of math and literacy.
- Review the Reading Badges and my child’s reading goal and ask my child questions to monitor understanding of reading informational text.
- Make every effort to attend parent workshops and parent conferences with my student to gain knowledge about resources and strategies for literacy and math, learn about my child’s academic progress, and ways I can help my student at home.

Student

- Use the materials and manipulatives at home that my parents checked out from the Parent Resource Center to increase my reading comprehension and computational skills.
- Access the school website frequently and interact with sites such as BrainPop to improve my reading comprehension and math computational skills.
- Read aloud to my parents or family and have fun completing the Reading Choice Boards at home.
- Attend Parent Workshops and Parent–Teacher Conferences with my parents to learn more about how to improve my reading comprehension and math computational skills at home.
## What is a School-Parent Compact?

It is a written commitment describing how all members of a school community agree to share responsibility for student learning. This compact helps bridge the learning connection between school and home.

## Activities to Build Partnerships

Indian Creek offers ongoing events and programs to provide parents and students with access to our staff: Open House, Parent Teacher Conferences, PTO Events, Title I Parent Meetings, After School Enrichment Program, School Council, and the Parent Resource Center.

### Upcoming Parent Meetings

- Title I Orientation August 20, 2020
- Math Family Night September 3, 2020
- Family Literacy Night October 1, 2020
- Title I Revision & Feedback Meeting March 4, 2021

## Jointly Developed

Parents, students, and school staff work together to develop our school-parent compact. Each school year, a parent meeting is held for parents, teachers, and students to revise the compact. The compact is also shared with the school council, faculty, and the Building Leadership Team to review progress and assess our goals. Parents can provide feedback on the compact at any time during the school year. Please contact Dr. Schmitt at (770) 385-6453 or visit our web site:

[www.newtoncountyschools.org/indian](http://www.newtoncountyschools.org/indian)

## Communications About Student Learning

Indian Creek is committed to providing regular two-way communication with families through:

- Parent Portal
- School Website
- Student Agenda
- Quarterly Progress Reports
- Semester Report Cards
- Call Messenger
- Parent-Teacher Conferences: September 11, 2020 and February 5, 2021
- Title I Parent Meetings and Open House
- Telephone Messages/Texts, Email, Facebook, Twitter, Canvas.

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Our Goals for Student Achievement

District Goal
Increased Student Achievement

Math School Goal
Increase student performance on the Math GA Milestones in grade 7 by 3% by the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

7th Grade Math Focus Area
Computational Skills

Reading School Goal
Increase student performance on the ELA GA Milestones in grade 7 by 3% by the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

7th Grade ELA/Reading Focus Area
Reading Comprehension Strategies

Teachers, Students, and Parents—Together for Success

Teachers/Schools

- Invite parents to the Parent Resource Center during parent conferences and parent meetings where parents can check out literacy and math educational materials to help their students at home with reading comprehension and math computation.
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Students

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- Read aloud to my parents or family and have fun completing the Reading Choice Boards at home.
- Attend Parent Workshops and Parent–Teacher Conferences with my parents to learn more about how to improve my reading comprehension and math computational skills at home.

Families

- Visit the Parent Resource Center during parent conferences and parent meetings to checkout reading materials and math activities to help my student develop reading comprehension and math computational skills.
- Visit BrainPop and other recommended resources with my student that support reading comprehension and math computational skills to help my student progress in the areas of literacy and math.
- Review the Reading Badges and my child’s reading goal and ask my child questions to monitor understanding of reading informational text.
- Make every effort to attend parent workshops and parent conferences with my student to gain knowledge about resources and strategies for literacy and math, learn about my child’s academic progress, and ways I can help my student at home.
# School-Parent Compact

## 8th Grade

**2020-2021**

*Revised 07/30/2020*

## What is a School-Parent Compact?

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- Telephone Messages/Texts, Email, Facebook, Twitter, Canvas

Please contact us for volunteering opportunities (770) 385-6453
**Our Goals for Student Achievement**

**District Goal**
Increased Student Achievement

**Math School Goal**
Increase student performance on the Math GA Milestones in grade 8 by 3% by the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

**8th Grade Math Focus Area**
Computational Skills

**ELA/Reading School Goal**
Increase student performance on the ELA GA Milestones in grade 8 by 3% by the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

**8th Grade ELA/Reading Focus Area**
Reading Comprehension Strategies

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## Teachers, Students, and Parents—Together for Success

### Teachers/Schools
- Invite parents to the Parent Resource Center during parent conferences and parent meetings where parents can check out literacy and math educational materials to help their students at home with reading comprehension and math computational skills.
- Utilize online resources from the school website and Brain Pop to improve reading comprehension and math computational skills.
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### Families
- Visit the Parent Resource Center during parent conferences and parent meetings to checkout reading materials and math activities to help my student develop reading comprehension and math computational skills.
- Visit BrainPop and other recommended resources with my student that support reading comprehension and math computational skills to help my student progress in the areas of literacy and math.
- Review the Reading Badges and my child’s reading goal and ask my child questions to monitor understanding of reading informational text.
- Make every effort to attend parent workshops and parent conferences with my student to gain knowledge about resources and strategies for literacy and math, learn about my child’s academic progress, and ways I can help my student at home.

### Student
- Use the materials and manipulatives at home that my parents checked out from the Parent Resource Center to increase my reading comprehension and math computational skills.
- Access the school website frequently and interact with sites such as BrainPop to improve my reading comprehension and math computational skills.
- Read aloud to my parents or family and have fun completing the Reading Choice Boards at home.
- Attend Parent Workshops and Parent–Teacher Conferences with my parents to learn more about how to improve my reading comprehension and math computational skills at home.
Date: August 1, 2020

Dear Parents,

In compliance with the requirements of the Every Students Succeeds Act, Indian Creek Middle would like to inform you that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your student’s teacher(s) and/or paraprofessional(s). The following information may be requested:

- Whether the student’s teacher—
  - has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
  - is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
  - is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.

- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Please rest assured that our staff is committed to helping your child reach his or her maximum academic potential throughout their school career. That commitment includes making sure that all of our teachers and paraprofessionals are highly skilled and delivering quality instruction to your child.

If you wish to request information concerning your child’s teachers’ qualifications, please contact me, Marc Dastous, your child’s principal, by phone at 770-385-6453 or by email at dastous.marc@newton.k12.ga.us

Thank you for your interest and involvement in your child’s education.

Sincerely,

Marc Dastous
Principal

Name: Marc Dastous
Title: Principal
Phone: 770-385-6453
Email: dastous.marc@newton.k12.ga.us

Student # __________________ Date Distributed ___________________________
NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
WASTE, FRAUD, ABUSE AND CORRUPTION
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Reporting Suspicion of Fraudulent Activities

- Title I, Part A – Programs for Disadvantaged Children
- Title I, Part A – School Improvement 1003 (a)
- Title I, Part A - Academic Achievement Awards
- Title I, Part A - Foster Care Program
- Title I, Part A - Family-School Partnership Program
- Title I, Part C – Education of Migratory Children
- Title I, Part D – Programs for Neglected and Delinquent Children
- Title II, Part A – Supporting Effective Instruction
- Title II, Part D – Enhancing Education Through Technology
- Title III, Part A – Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient (LEP) and Immigrant Students
- Title IV, Part A – Student Support and Academic Enrichment
- Title IV, Part B - 21st Century Community Learning Centers
- Title V, Part B – Rural Education Initiative
- Individuals with Disabilities ACT (IDEA) – Programs for Exceptional Students
- Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Act – Vocational Education Programs
- Title IX, Part A McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) and State Professional Learning.

**Employees shall disclose waste, fraud, abuse and corruption to the appropriate authorities.**

**Purpose:** To ensure that the reporting of any acts of suspicious waste, fraud, abuse and/or corruption activity, the Newton County Office of Federal Programs ensures employees, clients and providers of confidential channels to report said activities.

**Definitions:**

**Waste:** Defined as the intentional or unintentional, thoughtless or careless expenditure, consumption, mismanagement, use, or squandering of district, state, or federal resources to the detriment or potential detriment of the district. Waste also includes incurring unnecessary costs as a result of inefficient or ineffective practices, systems, or controls.

**Fraud:** The intentional deception perpetrated by an individual or individuals, or an organization or organizations, either internal or external to federal, state, or local governments, which could result in a tangible or intangible benefit to themselves others, or the district, state, or federal governments. Fraud includes a false representation of a matter of fact, whether by words or by conduct, by false or misleading statements, or by
concealment of that which should have been disclosed, which deceives and is intended to deceive.

**Abuse:** Defined as excessive or improper use of a thing, or to employ something in a manner contrary to the natural or legal rules for its use; intentional destruction, diversion, manipulation, misapplication, maltreatment or misuse of resources; extravagant or excessive use as to abuse one's position or authority. Abuse can occur in financial or non-financial settings.

**Corruption:** Defined as dishonest or fraudulent conduct by those in power, typically involving bribery. The process by which something, typically a word or expression, is changed from its original use or meaning to one that is regarded as erroneous or debased.

**Ethics:** The Code of Ethics for Educators defines the professional behavior of educators in Georgia and serves as a guide to ethical conduct. The Professional Standards Commission has adopted standards that represent the conduct generally accepted by the education profession. The code defines unethical conduct justifying disciplinary sanction and provides guidance for protecting the health, safety and general welfare of students and educators, and assuring the citizens of Georgia a degree of accountability within the education profession.

Employees shall practice good stewardship of District financial resources, including timely reporting of fraudulent expenditures.

**Statement of Administrative Regulations:** Newton County’s Office of Federal Programs thoroughly and expeditiously investigates any reported cases of suspected waste, fraud, abuse and/or corruption activity to determine if disciplinary, financial recovery and/or criminal action should be taken.

**Confidentiality:** All reports of suspicious waste, fraud, abuse and/or corruption activity suspect fraud must be handled under the strictest confidentiality. Only those directly involved in the investigation should be given information. Informants may remain anonymous but should be encouraged to cooperate with the investigators and should provide as much detail and evidence of alleged fraudulent act as possible.

**Procedures and Responsibilities:**

1. Anyone suspecting any acts of waste, fraud, abuse and/or corruption activity concerning federal programs should report their concerns to the appropriate Federal Program’s Director for Newton County School System at 770-787-1330.
2. Any employee with Newton County Board of Education (temporary staff, full-time staff and contractors) who receives a report of suspected fraudulent activity must report this information within the next business day. Employees have the responsibility to report suspected waste, fraud, abuse and/or corruption activity. All reports can be made in confidence.
3. The Newton County Board of Education shall conduct investigations of employees, providers, contractors, or vendors.
4. If necessary you will be contacted for additional information.
Newton County School System
Complaint Procedures for Parents and Students

Grounds for a Complaint

Any individual, organization or agency (“complainant”) may file a complaint with the Newton County School System (NCSS) if that individual, organization or agency believes and alleges that the NCSS is violating a Federal statute or regulation. The complaint must allege a violation that occurred not more than one (1) year prior to the date that the complaint is received, unless a longer period is reasonable because the violation is considered systemic or ongoing.

Federal Programs for Which Complaints Can Be Filed

- Title I, Part A – Programs for Disadvantaged Children
- Title I, Part A – School Improvement 1003 (a)
- Title I, Part A – Academic Achievement Awards
- Title I, Part A – Foster Care Program
- Title I, Part A – Family-School Partnership Program
- Title I, Part C – Education of Migratory Children
- Title I, Part D – Programs for Neglected and Delinquent Children
- Title II, Part A – Supporting Effective Instruction
- Title II, Part D – Enhancing Education Through Technology
- Title III, Part A – Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient (LEP) and Immigrant Students
- Title IV, Part A – Student Support and Academic Enrichment
- Title IV, Part B – 21st Century Community Learning Centers
- Title V, Part B – Rural Education Initiative
- Individuals with Disabilities ACT (IDEA) – Programs for Exceptional Students
- Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Act – Vocational Education Programs
- Title IX, Part A McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) and State Professional Learning.

An LEA accepting federal funds agrees to adopt local written procedures for the receipt and resolution of complaints alleging violations of law in the administration of covered programs. Therefore, for complaints originating at the local level, a complaint should not be filed with the Georgia Department of Education until every effort has been made to resolve the issue through local written complaint procedures.

Filing a Complaint

A complaint must be made in writing and signed by the complainant. The complaint must include the following:

- A statement that the NCSS has violated a requirement of a Federal statute or regulation that applies to an applicable program;

Revised July 1, 2020
• The date on which the violation occurred;

• The facts on which the statement is based and the specific requirement allegedly violated (include citation to the Federal statute or regulation);

• A list of the names and telephone numbers of individuals who can provide additional information;

• Whether a complaint has been filed with any other government agency, and if so, which agency;

• Copies of all applicable documents supporting the complainant’s position; and

The address of the complainant:
The complaint must be addressed to:

Newton County Board of Education
Appropriate Federal Program’s Director
2109 Newton Drive, NE
Covington, GA 30015

The appropriate Federal Programs’ Director will address all initial complaints. In the event that the concern is not resolved, a formal written complaint can than be sent to the Chief Strategy and Community Outreach Officer.

**Investigation of Formal Complaint**
Within ten (10) days of receipt of the complaint, the Chief Strategy and Community Outreach Officer or his or her designee will issue a Letter of Acknowledgement to the complainant that contains the following information:

• The date the NCSS received the complaint.

• How the complainant may provide additional information.

• A statement of the ways in which the NCSS may investigate or address the complaint.

• Any other pertinent information.

**Right of Appeal**
If an individual, organization or agency is aggrieved by the final decision of the NCSS, that individual, organization or agency has the right to request review of the decision by the Georgia Department of Education:

Georgia Department of Education
Office of Legal Services
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive, SE
2052 Twin Tower East
Atlanta, GA 30334

Revised July 1, 2020
Newton County School System
Complaint Form - Federal Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name (Complainant):</th>
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<tr>
<th>Mailing Address:</th>
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<tr>
<th>Phone Number (home):</th>
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<th>Phone Number (work):</th>
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<tr>
<th>Agency/agencies complaint is being filed against:</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date on which violation occurred:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Statement that the Newton County School System has violated a requirement of a Federal statute or regulation that applies to an applicable program (include citation to the Federal statute or regulation) (attach additional sheets if necessary):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The facts on which the statement is based and the specific requirement allegedly violated (attach additional sheets if necessary):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Frequently Asked Questions

What is the McKinney-Vento Act?

How does the law define homelessness?
An individual is “homeless” who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This definition of homelessness includes those living in shelters, motels, campgrounds, cars, abandoned buildings, or other inadequate shelter. The law also includes situations in which an individual shares housing with relatives or others because he or she has lost housing or cannot afford housing due to economic hardship.

What are my child’s rights under the McKinney-Vento Act?
A child considered homeless under the law has:
- The right to immediate enrollment in school without having health and school records available;
- The right to attend either the school of origin or the school in the attendance area where the family currently resides;
- The right to receive transportation to school of origin when feasible and in the best interest of the child, if requested by parent/guardian;
- The right to access comparable services, including transportation services, educational services, supplemental services, extracurricular activities, and free meals through the School Nutrition Program.

Homeless children and youth may not be stigmatized by school personnel. Families of homeless children and youth have the right to dispute enrollment if the local school sends the homeless child or youth to a school other than the school of origin requested by the parent/guardian or by an unaccompanied youth.

If my child and I become homeless during the school year what should I do?
Ask to speak to the homeless school contact or school counselor.

Who can I call if I need assistance?
Contact the homeless school contact who serves your child’s school.

For more information, contact the following:

Khiem Reed - Newton County School System Homeless Liaison
reed.khiem@newton.k12.ga.us
770-787-1330 ext. 3907