

# East Hall Middle School



## ***Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Plan for Shared Student Success***

### ***2025-2026 School Year***

Revised 6/18/25

*East Hall Middle School  
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## **What is Title I?**

East Hall Middle is identified as a Title I school as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I is designed to support State and local school reform efforts tied to the challenging State academic standards 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 family engagement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with parents and family members a written parent and family engagement policy.

# School Plan for Shared Student Achievement

## **What is it?**

This is a plan that describes how East Hall Middle School will provide opportunities to improve family engagement to support student learning. EHMS values the contributions and involvement of parents and family members to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. The plan describes the different ways that EHMS 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?**

East Hall Middle School invited all parents to attend our School Forum last spring to review and revise this parent and family engagement policy, as well as the schoolwide plan, our school-parent compact, and the family engagement budget. Additionally, parent input and comments regarding this plan are welcome during the school year through an online form. The plan is posted on our school website for parents to view and submit feedback through the year. All parent feedback received during the year will be used to revise the plan for the next school year. We also distribute an annual survey online and by mail to ask parents for their suggestions on the plan and the use of funds for family engagement. Parents and family members can also give feedback during several parent meetings and activities during the 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. EHMS will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents and family members with limited English, with disabilities, and of migratory children.

## **Where is it available?**

At the beginning of the year, after the plan is revised, the plan is posted on the school website and the policy is emailed out to all families through either Remind or Infinite Campus. If additional copies are needed, parents can retrieve a copy of the plan in the East Hall Middle School front office. Contact Dr. Jamie Hitzges at [Jamie.hitzges@hallco.org](mailto:Jamie.hitzges@hallco.org) or Irma Velez at [irma.velez@hallco.org](mailto:irma.velez@hallco.org).

### **District Goals 2024-2025**

By the end of FY26, the percentage of all students moving into the "Proficient and Distinguished" (combined) levels of performance on the Georgia Milestones Assessments will increase by 2%.

By the end of FY26, increase the percentage of referred students who access school based mental health services in order to increase the overall school climate rating for HCSD by 1% (from 86.74 to 87.74).

### **School Goals 2025-2026**

By the end of SY26, the MAP ELA and Math growth percentiles will increase by 5% from the beginning to MAP end-of-year assessments.

By the end of SY26, students will increase their expressive language by 3% as measured by ACCESS scale score comparison summary in speaking and writing.

By the end of the 2025-2026 school year, the number of externalizing students on the Strengths and Difficulty Questionnaire (SDQ) survey measuring student socio-emotional wellness will show a 2% decrease, comparing the beginning to end-of-year percentage.

### **School-Parent Compacts**

As part of this plan, EHMS and our families will develop a school-parent compact which is an agreement that the parents, teachers, and student 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 the Community Care event and the School Forum. The school-parent compacts also are shared with parents during parent-teacher conferences and kept with each child's teacher if parents need another copy.

## **Let's Get Together!**



EHMS will host the following events to build the capacity for strong family engagement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. All meetings for parents and family members will be held twice during the day—once in the morning and once in the evening.

### **Open House for 6th Grade - July 28, 2025 @ 4 pm - 6 pm**

Meet your child's teacher and our friendly and helpful school staff.

### **Open House for 7th and 8th Grades - July 29, 2025 @ 4 pm - 7 pm**

Meet your child's teacher and our friendly and helpful school staff.

### **Curriculum/Family Night - September 23, 2025 @ 5:30 pm**

Come out and enjoy some time with other EHMS families. You will learn about the school curriculum, technology available to you and your students, and about our literacy/math initiatives.

### **Annual Title I Meeting - October 21, 2025 @ 9:00 am and 5:30 pm**

You are invited to learn about our school's Title I program including our parent involvement policy and budget, the school-wide plan, the school-parent compact and parent requirements.

### **Showcase Night- November 11, 2025 @ 5:30 pm**

Parents are invited to join us in our building for a night of showcases. We will have fine art and CTAE showcases on display where students will present their learning to families. Parents will be exposed to curriculum used in each area.

### **Mental Health Awareness - January, 27, 2026 @ 9:00 am**

Learn about mental health and how we can identify the problem.

### **Getting Ready for 8th Grade- February 24, 2026 @ 5:30 pm**

Join us for an informational meeting on the purpose of Carnegie Units and how benefit in obtaining required credits for high school in 8th Grade! You will also get an overview of the many Programs of Choice offered in the Hall County School District.

### **Milestones Test Prep Parent Meeting - March 17, 2026 @ 9:00 am**

Learn about resources to help your student be prepared for Milestones testing.

### **Parent and Family Input Meeting - April 14, 2026 @ 9:00 am and 5:00 pm**

Review and offer feedback about our school's Parent and Family Engagement Policy, School/Parent Compact, Comprehensive Needs Assessment, Parent and Family Engagement Budget, and the School Improvement Plan.

### **Rising 6th Grade Parent Night - May 12, 2026 @ 5:30 pm**

Current 5th grade parents are invited to join us to become oriented in ways to support your child through the transition to middle school.

## Parental and Family Engagement

EHMS believes that family engagement means the participation of parents and family members in a meaningful two-way communication regarding student academic learning and other school activities including ensuring:

- That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.
- 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.
- The carrying out of other activities as described in this plan.

EHMS is committed to helping our parents and families attend the family activities listed in this policy. Please call or email us if you need assistance with child care or transportation in order to participate in our programs.

Dr. Jamie Hitzges, Principal  
Jamie.Hitzges@hallco.org  
(770) 531-9457



## Get EHMS is Reaching OUT!

EHMS will take the following measures to promote and support parents and family members 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 published in both English and Spanish, posted on the school website, and included in the newsletter for all families.
- Provide monthly trainings for staff during their planning periods on strategies to improve communication with parents and ideas to increase family engagement with reading and math activities for our students outside of the classroom. Staff will also share best practices during regularly scheduled faculty meetings.
- Partner with early childhood programs, middle and high schools, college and career ready resources or organizations, parent resource centers, or other programs (as applicable) to help prepare parents and their children for successful school transitioning.
- Share information in English and Spanish on the school website and in the school newsletter for parents to understand the school's academic standards and assessments as well as the ways parents can monitor their child's progress.
- Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding school wide events and activities, through phone messages, social media, flyers, and newsletter posts.
- Work with our parents to develop relevant trainings and helpful presentations to educate our staff on the importance of parent and family engagement and how to support learning.
- Provide necessary materials and handouts for parents at conferences, meeting, and activities to help parents work with their child to improve achievement.
- Offer literacy and computer classes for parents and family members to help further enhance their various educational levels.
- Collect feedback from parents and family members at all events and post a suggestion form on the school website in order to respond to parents' requests for additional support for parent and family engagement activities.

### Parent and Family Engagement Standards

East Hall Middle School and our parents have adopted the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships as the school's model in engaging parents, students, and the community. These standards are:

1. Welcoming All Families
2. Communicating Effectively
3. Supporting Student Success
4. Speaking Up for Every Child
5. Sharing Power
6. Collaborating with Community

### Parent Resource Center

Come visit the Parent Resource Center to check out books, study materials, and activities to use at home with your child. Computers are available for parents to explore the IC Parent Portal and educational resources.

Monday-Friday, 8:00-3:30

EHMS invites all parents to join the School Community Team to share ideas and ways to involve other parents and family members to build partnerships with school, families, and the community. The team will meet four times during the school year, but parents and family members can also submit their ideas or suggestions at any school activities and meetings, as well as through our parent surveys and website. If you would like to learn more about the School Community Team, please contact the Dr. Jamie Hitzges, Principal at (770)531-9457 or complete the interest form and leave it in the Main Office.

### School Community Team

- ☐ Yes, I am interested and wish to join the School Community Team.
- ☐ Please contact me so I can learn more in joining the School Community Team.
- ☐ Please send me notifications about future meetings and updates.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name and Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Share Your Thoughts

We want to hear from you. If you have any suggestions regarding this plan and the students' or school's goals for academic achievement, please provide us with your comments in the space provided and leave this form in the Main Office:

Name: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

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