

Roscommon Middle Parental Involvement Plan

The staff at Roscommon Middle School believes that schools clearly work best when parents are involved in their children's education. Based on Joyce L. Epstein's research, which shows that parental involvement is a critical component of the learning process, Roscommon Middle School strives to involve parents in every aspect of their child's education.

- Roscommon Middle School parents are involved in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the schoolwide plan.
- Parents are invited to attend the annual Title I meeting held at the beginning of each school year. This meeting informs parents of the Title I program and services offered by Roscommon Middle School.
- Roscommon Middle School has a Parent Advisory Committee that meets monthly with the Title I Building Leadership Team to discuss components of the schoolwide plan. Discussion topics include annual review of the comprehensive needs assessment, development of academic goals, plan and review school activities, and evaluate effectiveness of parental involvement in regards to the schoolwide plan. Parents have input on the plan through the Parent Advisory Committee, administrators, staff, and various parent surveys administered throughout the school year.
- The Parent Advisory Committee in conjunction with the Roscommon Middle School's Title I Building Leadership Team will annually evaluate the Parental Involvement Plan. The purpose of this evaluation is to identify barriers to greater participation and devise strategies to increase parental involvement.
- Roscommon Middle School will gauge the effectiveness of schoolwide events by offering parents the opportunity to provide feedback on an evaluation form regarding parent/student activities. This information will be used by the Parent Advisory Committee and the Title I Building Leadership Team to determine if certain activities should continue or be modified to improve parental involvement.
- Roscommon Middle School has a Parental Involvement Mission Statement and a Parent/Student/Teacher Compact that addresses the true partnership for learning that exists between home and school. (See Appendix C1 and C2) This compact was developed using survey data obtained from parents, students, and teachers. In the spring, representatives from each stakeholder group will review their portion of the compact and make suggested revisions. This compact is used

annually at parent/teacher conferences to focus on the responsibilities of each stakeholder in order to improve student achievement and address schoolwide goals.

Activities

Roscommon Middle School employs a variety of activities that reflect the six standard areas developed by Joyce Epstein to meet the strategies to increase parental involvement in accordance with section 1118 (e), sections 1-5, and section 14 of the No Child Left Behind legislation.

Section 1118 (e) section 1/Standard 1 - Communicating:

Roscommon Middle School personnel assist parents in understanding the state's content standards assessments and how to monitor their child's progress in the following ways:

- Roscommon Middle School uses the MDE's Parent Report to help parents understand their child's MEAP scores and to monitor their progress in mastering state grade level expectations. This report is a tool parents and teachers can use to analyze and plan for differentiated instruction.

Section 1118 (e) section 2/Standard 2 - Parenting:

Roscommon Middle School Counselors and staff provide materials and training to help parents work with their children in the following ways:

- "The Middle School Years: Working together for school success" flyer which is a publication from Resources for Educators. This flyer is sent home monthly and informs parents about different topics that are related to parenting middle school students.
- Parents have access to a loaning library which consists of books that are related to many different topics that can help families cope with personal challenges that affect their middle school children. Some examples include divorce issues, family crisis, substance abuse and homework.
- Counselors and professional staff conduct one on one conferences to help parents work effectively with their children, and provide referrals to community resources as needed.

Section 1118 (e) section 3/Standard 1 - Communicating:

The staff at Roscommon Middle School has been trained to build effective parent involvement through the presentation of Ruby Payne's "A Framework for Understanding Poverty" professional development series.

Section 1118 (e) section 4/Standard – Standard IV – Collaborating with Community:

Roscommon Middle School collaborates with other programs to coordinate parent involvement in the following ways:

- Catholic Human Services provides a student assistance program which utilizes small group settings to help students cope with divorce and step families, family substance abuse, and life skills training such as anger management, self-esteem, and conflict resolution.
- Roscommon Middle School counselors work with the Department of Human Services to make decisions in the best interest of the child where neglect and abuse may be present. Counselors work with support services to help build and/or maintain the family unit.
- Roscommon Middle School counselors also work with Roscommon County Probate Court when needed to serve the best interest of at-risk students.
- High achieving eighth grade students are given the opportunity to participate in Kirtland Community College's extensive fine arts programs.
- Roscommon Middle School collaborates with Central Michigan University's Science Education Department to sponsor "Star Lab". This day and evening program is for students and their families to learn about the solar system.
- Roscommon Middle School Title I program collaborates with an area business to sponsor math and reading Family Involvement Nights.
- Coordination with COOR's Gifted and Talented Program to sponsor an informational meeting for parents regarding their middle school student who is eligible to take the ACT in 8th grade.
- Gerrish-Higgins School District collaborates with the local Federally Qualified Health Center, MidMichigan Health Services, to provide health care services to the area's students and their families. The major goal of the School Based Health Center is to provide comprehensive primary care services with an emphasis on

prevention, health improvement, and health maintenance and disease management. By providing School Based Health Care Services, student access to appropriate health care is increased; school absenteeism is reduced; students are taught to be advocates for their personal health; and through the Medical Care Discount Program, services are provided to people who otherwise may not be able to afford them.

Section 1118 (e) section 5/Standard III – Student Learning:

Roscommon Middle School strives to provide information in a format and language that parents can understand.

- Teachers provide individual student academic assessment data to students and parents at parent teacher conferences which are held in the fall and as needed.
- Individualized Educational Program Team (IEPT) special education data is updated at IEPT meetings, and a copy of that information is given to parents of special education students.
- Progress reports are provided school wide three times a year. Additional progress reports are issued more often per parent request.
- Attendance is closely monitored at the building, and letters are sent home to families when students have been absent more than nine days.
- Report cards are issued to parents three times a year.
- Parents and the community may enroll in Roscommon Middle School's email notices that provide the most up to date information regarding school related activities.
- Students of the Month are honored in the local newspaper.
- "The Middle Years: Working together for school success" is a user friendly newsletter with a variety of topics relevant to raising a middle school student.
- Parents of incoming fifth graders are invited to attend a middle school orientation that introduces families to the middle school concept.

Section 1118 (e) section 14/Standard IV - Volunteering:

Opportunities for parental involvement include:

- Roscommon Middle School allows parents to work with students in the educational experience as chaperones for fieldtrips, helping in the science labs, and team building activities.

Section 1118 (f):

- Roscommon Middle School is barrier free and has on-site staff resources to assist parents with any disabilities so they may actively be involved in their child's education.