



# **Sallas Mahone**

## **Parent Engagement Policy**

**2018-2019**

*The research is clear that when schools and families support each other, students of all backgrounds and various abilities achieve at higher levels. Parent engagement is an ongoing process that increases active participation, communication, and collaboration between parents, schools, and communities with the goal of educating the whole child to ensure student achievement and success.*

*Last Revised on September 27, 2018*



### **School Information**

Sallas Mahone's Parental Engagement Policy

2018-2019

Principal, Dr. Artrice Haugabrook

3686 Lake Laurie Drive Valdosta, GA 31605

229-333-8530

[sallasmahone.gocats.org](http://sallasmahone.gocats.org)

### **What is Title I?**

**Sallas Mahone** is identified as a Title I school as part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). Title I is designed to support State and local school reform 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 all parents a written parental engagement policy.

## **Description of Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan**

### **What is it?**

This is a plan that describes how Sallas Mahone Elementary will provide opportunities to improve parent engagement to support student learning. Sallas Mahone values the positive relationships and involvement of parents to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. The plan describes different ways that Sallas Mahone will support parent engagement and how parents can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at at home and school.

### **Who is it for?**

Sallas Mahone is a Title I school; therefore, all students participating in the Title I, Part A program, and their families are encouraged to participate in the opportunities provided in the plan.

### **How is the plan communicated?**

The plan is located on the Sallas Mahone website. Sallas Mahone is striving for effective initial and ongoing communication. All of the yearly parent engagement school events are posted in the monthly provided calendars. Flyers, text messages, emails, phone messages and marquee serve as ongoing follow-up reminders. Parents stay informed of how well their child is behaving at school and updated on academic progress through multiple modes of communication. The plan is to provide open dialogue going from home to school daily.

### **How is the plan made available and revised?**

Stakeholders are expected to give input on the Parent Engagement Plan annually. Feedback forms are located on the school website throughout the year. In addition, feedback is received at all Parent Engagement Team meetings as well as numerous other events during the year. In addition Parent Communication and Title I surveys are other opportunities to provide feedback to parent engagement events, funding for parent involvement, and ideas for improvement. Sallas Mahone values stakeholder feedback.

## **Your Future...Our Mission. Imagine the Possibilities!**

Our **vision** is to prepare students to pursue infinite possibilities for the future.

The **mission** of Valdosta City Schools is quality teaching and learning, resulting in superior performance for all.

### **School-Parent Compacts**

**Sallas Mahone**, students participating in the Title I, Part A program, and their families, agree that the compact outlines how the parents, entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement as well as describes how school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the State's high standards. This is an agreement that parents, students, and teachers develop together. It explains how parents and teachers will work together to make sure all our students reach grade-level standards. The compact links goals of the school improvement plan, focuses on student learning, and describes each party's commitment in helping students reach expectations. The compact is developed jointly and updated annually. Parents sign verification forms of notice of receiving the updated compacts annually.

## **Parent Engagement Program and Activities**

**Annual Title I Meeting** At the start of the school year, the principal shares the Title I requirements annually with all interested stakeholders as well as the school improvement plan, parent involvement plan and school compact.

**School Improvement Title I Plan:** This plan addresses a summary of the data and needs assessment. Goals and strategies are determined to focus on academic needs of students. In addition, professional learning needs are addressed for teachers with coordination of federal funds and school programs. Parents are invited to be involved in the planning, review and improvement of the plans.

**Parent Engagement Plan:** This plan addresses the Valdosta City Schools procedures, expectations and parent involvement standards and how Sallas Mahone plans to address each standard with activities and action steps for the school year.

**Parent Resource Room:** This room is available to parents and is located in room 41. Please let your child's teacher know if you want to check out materials to support your child's learning. A variety of reading leveled materials, math manipulatives, books, and games are available. The hours are 8-3.

**Frequent Progress Report:** Multiple times a year parents are updated on academic progress based on grade level goals, behavior checkpoints, and student growth progress. In addition frequent feedback to the standards tested each nine week period is reported through formative assessments, progress reports and academic feedback section on the weekly newsletter. Additional academic reports are updated through the parent portal that parents have web access to 24 hours a day.

**Parent Campus Portal and SLDS Portal:** Through this system, parents are provided immediate electronic access to summative assessment scores, attendance records, and Standardized test data. In addition, parents have educational resources and web resources to match the content standards. Parents need an individualized username and password to access their child's data. Get access through the school counselors or secretary.

**Access our Staff at Sallas Mahone:** Email your child's teacher, grade level assistant principal, principal or other staff members for ways we can help you. Inquire about all the ways to participate in your child's classroom, listen to children read, attend field trips, or work with struggling learners. We strive to limit interruptions during the instructional times of the day. Best contact information and time is located on the top corner of the newsletters and in communication books.

All of the Title I required documents can be found in the front lobby, Media Center, Parent Resource Room, or visit the school website at [sallasmahone.gocats.org](http://sallasmahone.gocats.org) Parents can provide written input to these documents by completing the stakeholder feedback form located on the school website. Everyone has the right to the opportunity to provide feedback. Parents are invited to give feedback by way of surveys, PI meetings, feedback forms, email, or through our website.

Parent Engagement Program believes that parents, schools, families, and communities working together can create meaningful partnerships that ultimately lead to significant gains across the board in student achievement.

Parental engagement means the participation of parents 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 at school;
- 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;

**Sallas Mahone** offers a flexible number of parent engagement events in the morning, afternoon or evenings to meet the varied needs of our parents.

Parent communication pieces are available in multiple modes and are distributed in an understandable and uniform format.

Other support can be provided upon request.

## **Parent Engagement Events**

**Bee Smart** In August there is a Bee Smart session to offer input into the school improvement plan and parent involvement plan. Parents are given an opportunity to ask questions, voice concerns, and offer feedback. This session also showcases the most current achievement data and the targeted ways to address the school's needs. This session information is also posted on the schools website.

**SME 101:** This event is planned to help our families get off to a great start at SME. Each classroom is open where a session is held to help parents orient to the rituals and routines of a new school year with a new teacher. In addition, important information about the schedule, Georgia Standards of Excellence, and expectations are shared.

**Grade Level Parent Events** These events are offered to encourage collaboration between teachers, students, and parents about grade level expectations. Parents will leave the sessions empowered to better assist their child with specific strategies, websites, and at home activities to improve their children's achievement.

**Parent Involvement Team Meetings** This team is a decision making group for school improvement work in regards to parent involvement. This team is responsible for updating the parent involvement plan, coordinating parent involvement events, and giving feedback to the PI budget. Everyone is invited to attend these planning meetings held throughout the year.

**English Language Learner Informational Sessions** This school orientation and sessions are provided to bridge the communication gap of our parents who speak multiple or other languages.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences** There are designated parent conference weeks following each nine week period to schedule a conference with your child's teacher and to receive timely information about the curriculum and individual assessment results compared to proficiency levels.

**Moving Up: Next Grade Level Orientation** In May an annual Moving Up Day is held to inform parents on how to prevent the summer slide. Our preschool parents are invited to participate to support activities and strategies that can be used in their programs. For our fifth grade parents, an orientation to the middle school is also offered. In addition individual school tours and orientations are available upon request.

**Scott Craven Mentoring Program** This weekly breakfast club supports students with deployed parents and distributes gifts to needy targeted families.

## Parent Engagement Standards

Parents, schools, families, and communities working together can create meaningful partnerships that ultimately lead to significant gains in student achievement across the board. The following Parent Engagement Standards will be implemented to create meaningful partnerships:

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



### Stay informed:

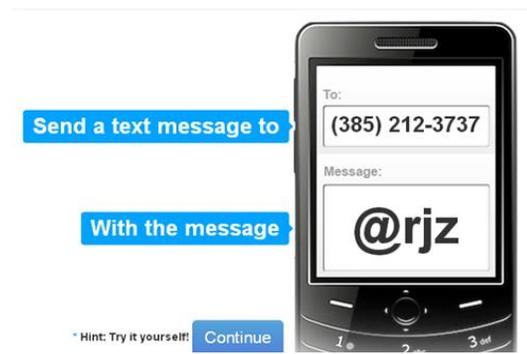
Like us on **Facebook**:  
Sallas Mahone Elementary School

### Website:

<http://sallasmahone.gocats.org/default.asp>

### School newsletters

Receive messages via **Remind 101**:  
Follow these steps to get started.



## Hungry at Home

The goal of Hungry at Home program is to “bridge the gap” between school and home so children do not have to be hungry while away from school. Children in need receive a backpack filled with six healthy meals and four snacks to be enjoyed during the weekend. The backpacks are discreetly distributed so the children remain anonymous. To be involved with Hungry at Home you could donate or volunteer. If you choose to donate you could donate monetarily or specific foods. Monetary donations are crucial. Food is purchased from the food bank at a low rate. It only costs \$7 to feed one child for a weekend, that’s only \$250 for an entire school year. Please make checks payable to “Hungry at Home.” All money goes to purchase food and backpacks. All contributions are tax deductible. If you would rather send in food, listed below are the suggested items needed.

Please ensure that any food items donated is non-perishable and do not require refrigeration or a can opener. Containers should be non-glass (preferably single serving) and easy for small hands to open without assistance. The yearly food drive held in November supports the Hungry at Home Project. If you are interested or have further inquiries please contact Jennifer Gay, Sallas Mahone Hungry at Home Representative, by phone 333-8530 or email [jgay@gocats.org](mailto:jgay@gocats.org).

The same children who have been targeted for Hungry at Home participation will also receive a literacy book bag sent home weekly of book collections for their family. We hope to expand this bag with homework supplies and toiletry items. Thanks in advance for volunteering to give.

In addition to Title I Parent opportunities, Sallas Mahone has an active PTO. PTO is a Parent Teacher Organization that works with teachers, staff, and students to provide extras throughout the year through various fundraisers. This organization is a decision making advocacy for Sallas Mahone Elementary. Projects have included funding our communication books, field trips, playground and PE equipment, classroom materials, digital subscriptions, and much, much more! There are numerous events throughout the year for ways you may volunteer. PTO events and meeting dates are located in the communication book. Please try to attend as many meetings as possible. To get involved in your child’s PTO, please request PTO Membership Form or email [sallasmahonepto@gmail.com](mailto:sallasmahonepto@gmail.com). Like Sallas Mahone PTO on Facebook too.