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Principal

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George D. Steckel Elementary School

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Steckel Elementary Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2026-2027

1. Steckel Elementary School will involve parents and families in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

- Steckel Elementary School is dedicated to a true partnership with our families and actively encourages all parents and families to join the Title I Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), and we regularly discuss opportunities for joining and supporting this group during our PTO Plus meetings throughout the year and during our spring or summer meeting.
- The policy is shared annually to ensure updated feedback. Parents and families are invited to review the document at the fall Meet-the-MTSS-Team Meeting, which is held as an evening event on October 14, 2026.
    - The policy will also be shared at our Title I Parent and Family Engagement Workshops, distributed digitally in the September 6th, 2026 SMORE parent newsletter, and made available at Meet the Teacher Night on September 10th, 2026.
- To gather direct, actionable input, we will distribute comprehensive parent surveys via email or in person during the Spring of 2027.
    - Steckel Elementary will then use this collective parental input and the survey results to develop and/or update the policy as necessary later in the Spring of 2027.

2. Steckel Elementary School will hold an annual meeting in the fall to inform parents and families of the school's participation in the Schoolwide Title 1 program and to explain the requirements of their right to be involved.

- Key information, including the rights and a full explanation of the Title I program requirements, is presented to parents at the Fall Meet-the-MTSS-Team Meeting on October 14th, 2026.
    - The school will also take the opportunity to share this essential information at Meet the Teacher Night on September 10th, 2026.
- Recognizing that families may not be able to attend every event, the school makes a strong effort to ensure this information is accessible through written and oral communication.
    - For example, a full explanation of the Title I program and parental rights was distributed digitally in the SMORE newsletter on August 30, 2026.

3. Steckel Elementary School will hold parent and family workshops and meetings, including parent conferences, at different times during the day.

- To support our families with helpful resources, Steckel Elementary provides the Building Readers newsletters from the Parent Institute on a monthly basis.

    - These are shared with families through the monthly building SMORE newsletter and are also distributed digitally in the district and community-wide Zephyr Zipline newsletter. They are available in both English and Spanish.
- Furthermore, monthly building calendars are shared well in advance with families via several digital platforms, such as the building and district websites and the school's weekly newsletter communication.
- Parents and families are warmly invited to attend key events throughout the year, including Meet the Teacher Night, on September 10, 2026.
- Additionally, invitations are extended for the Fall Meet the MTSS Team on October 14th, which includes a fun and engaging Bingo game for students focusing on Reading and Math.
- Families are also invited to the two other scheduled Title I Parent and Family Engagement workshops, which include:
    - An Open Mic Night event on January 20, 2026
    - A Novels and Numbers event on March 17, 2026
- Communication with families and reminders about these Parent and Family events and workshops may be accessed easily via the Steckel Elementary School Website and the Whitehall-Coplay School District Title 1Website.

4. Steckel Elementary School will involve parents and families in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's Schoolwide Title 1 program.

- The school creates regular opportunities for this input, including inviting families to offer suggestions for programmatic changes after workshops and at the Spring Title I Parent Advisory Committee/End-of-Year Meeting, scheduled for the Spring or Summer of 2027.

5. Steckel Elementary School will provide parents and families with timely information about the Title 1 program.

- Following the Beginning-of-Year (BOY) testing, for example, MTSS reading and math letters are sent out to families by the end of September or beginning of October.
- The school also ensures families are well-aware of upcoming events by distributing flyers for workshops, including the October 14th event and the two events scheduled for January 20, 2027 and March 17, 2027.
- To maintain regular communication, families receive the Monthly Newsletter within the Steckel Parent SMORE, which includes valuable educational insights from The Parent Institute. All program details are also permanently available on the official Title I Website at https://sites.google.com/whitehallcoplay.org/title1/home.
- In addition to these resources, the school provides individual Program Reports to track student progress, such as the iReady family report and DIBELS benchmarking after the Beginning-of-Year (BOY), Middle-of-Year (MOY), and End-of-Year (EOY) assessments.
    - A key opportunity for discussion about these reports and student progress is during Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 23rd and 24th, 2026.

6. Steckel Elementary School will provide parents and families with a description of the curriculum used in the school, the PA State Standards, academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.

- The school shares this essential information at the Fall Meet-the-Teacher event, scheduled for September 10, 2026, and during the Meet-the-MTSS-Team Meeting on October 14, 2026.

    - This is also a key discussion topic during Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 23rd and 24th, 2026.
- For continuous access, the complete curriculum can be found on the Whitehall-Coplay School District Website.
    - Further explanation and training on standards and assessments are provided during our Parent and Family Engagement Workshops held on October 14th and again in Spring 2027.

7. Steckel Elementary School will provide, if requested by parents or families, opportunities for regular meetings to form suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and to respond to any suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

- Steckel Elementary School provides opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by parents or families, to form suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to their children's education. The school is committed to responding to any suggestions as soon as practicably possible.
- These opportunities include scheduled events like Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 23rd and November 24th, 2026, and flexibility for appointments with teachers or Reading/Math Specialists.
    - Families can easily find contact information in the Steckel Staff Directory.
- To ensure these discussions are productive and informed, we make the relevant documentation available, including the MTSS Process 2026/2027 for Steckel, the Steckel MTSS Reading and Math Tier 1-3 Skills If/Then, and the Steckel MTSS Plan.

8. Steckel Elementary School will meet and communicate with parents and families to develop and discuss a Schoolwide Plan.

- Opportunities for this discussion are provided at both the school's Fall parent/family engagement meeting on October 14th, 2026, and again in the Spring of 2027.
- Furthermore, the school incorporates this discussion throughout the year, at Meet the Teacher Night on September 10th, 2026, and at the Spring Parent Advisory Council meeting,
- Families can access detailed information on the plan anytime through the Steckel Elementary Website and the Title I website, where key Steckel Title I Documents are available. We also share information and resources in our Parent newsletters—for example, the September SMORE included The Parent Institute, Building Readers Newsletter in both English and Spanish.

9. Steckel Elementary School will develop jointly with parents and families, a school-home compact, which outlines how parents/families, the school staff, and students share in the responsibility for improved student achievement.

- To ensure all families have access to this agreement, the compact is made available in three key languages: English, Spanish, and Arabic.
    - The compact is reviewed with families at the Fall Meet-the-MTSS-Team Meeting on October 14, 2026, providing an opportunity for discussion and feedback.

10. Steckel Elementary School will help parents and families understand the PA state standards and student achievement standards, local academic assessments, and how to monitor and improve their child's progress.

- This essential training and discussion occur during Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 23rd and 24th, 2026 (as scheduled individually).

- Time to cover these topics comprehensively is also dedicated at the Parent and Family Engagement Workshops held in both Fall 2026 and Spring 2027.

11. Steckel Elementary School will provide materials and training to help parents and families work with their children to improve their achievement.

- This support is primarily offered at the Title I parent and family engagement meetings scheduled in both the Fall and Spring.
- Additionally, training and resources are available during Parent and Family Engagement events.
- For more personalized assistance, families can always schedule an appointment with building teachers or Reading/Math Specialists, who are available to provide specific, tailored support and information as needed.

12. Steckel Elementary School will obtain information from parents and families on how to train staff to work with families as equal partners.

- Steckel Elementary School makes it a priority to obtain information directly from parents and families on how to train staff to work with families as truly equal partners.
- The school accomplishes this by formally sharing annual parent survey results with our faculty, specifically referencing the comprehensive Survey Results 25-26.
- Furthermore, the school integrates the review of SPAC skits with faculty during meetings, using these scenarios as essential professional development tools to promote effective and collaborative family engagement strategies among all staff members.

13. Steckel Elementary School will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family involvement programs and activities with other federal, state, and local programs, including preschool programs. These and other activities will encourage and support parents and families to more fully participate in the education of their children.

- Key integrated events include the Spring Parent Advisory Council meeting, the Fall Meet the MTSS Team Meeting, Winter Open Mic Night, and the Spring Novels and Numbers, alongside other family events scheduled as needed.

14. Steckel Elementary School will ensure information is in a language parents and families can understand by translating information as appropriate and needed.

- To facilitate effective communication, we utilize readily available tools such as Google Translate and Class Dojo, alongside other means as necessary, to bridge language gaps and ensure that all families have equitable access to school information.

15. Steckel Elementary School will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents and families with limited English proficiency, with disabilities, and from migratory families, including providing information and school reports required in an understandable and uniform format and including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents and families understand.

- Every parent and family is warmly invited to attend all school events, workshops, and meetings. To the extent practicable, all communication is provided in a language parents and families understand; for example, we utilize the professional Transperfect service to facilitate clear and accurate communication in meetings.

ADOPTION

This Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with and agreed upon with parents/guardians and families of the Title 1, Part A, Schoolwide Program. This policy was adopted on September 3, 2026, and will be in effect for a period of one year.

This policy will be distributed to all parents and families on or before **September 6, 2026.**

Sarah Rothermel and Zachary Garger

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Sarah Rothermel, Principal
Zachary Garger, Assistant Principal
Steckel Elementary

Date

Revised
9/29/2025