We, the parents and staff, agree that it is necessary to work closely together as we develop the Title I school-wide program at Paragon Mills Elementary School. This policy outlines how parents’ input and support is sought for the development of our school-wide program through the Parent Compact, parent meetings, and written communications. This policy also attempts to show how the school provides parents with information and training needed to support their child’s educational progress. The role the community plays in this process is also outlined in the policy.

**PARENT-SCHOOL COMPACT:**
It is our belief that the education of students must be a joint effort of the school, the parent, and the student. The parents and staff have developed a Parent-School Compact which outlines the responsibilities of each party. This compact is distributed to all parents, students, and teachers. It is on file at the school and is used during parent-teacher conferences and student-teacher conferences.

**PARENT PARTICIPATION:**
We respect the advice and opinions of the parents at Paragon Mills Elementary School. We seek their involvement in the planning, writing, revising, and evaluation of our School Improvement Plan, Parent Involvement Policy and the Parent School Compact. Parents are also included on the Title I school-wide committee which meets on a regular basis to give guidance and direction to our school.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**
We believe that communication between the home and school is vital. We strive to encourage this communication through an annual meeting to explain the school’s participation in the Title I program, the School Improvement Plan, Parent Involvement Policy, and the Parent-School Compact. At this meeting, parents’ rights are discussed. Written communications are provided which explain the curriculum, assessment measures, and proficiency expectations. An individual child’s progress and parent concerns are addressed through telephone calls, personal notes, take-home folders and/or agendas, mid-term progress reports, and conferences. Parents are informed of the total school’s progress, activities, and programs through monthly newsletters. Parents are encouraged to make visits to the school, volunteer, and become involved in our daily program whenever possible. Parents’ opinions and assessment of our program are collected through an annual survey.

**PARENT MEETINGS AND TRAINING:**
We offer opportunities for parents to receive training and information through workshops provided by our Family Engagement Specialist each month and at conferences at school scheduled at various times of the day. Parents are provided information discussing how the school will provide assistance to parents in understanding the State’s academic content standards and student achievement standards, local academic assessments and how to monitor a child’s progress and work with teachers to improve the achievement of their children and with materials to use in working with their children. Additionally we will provide parents of participating children with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet. Title I funds may be used to pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent involvement activities, including transportation, childcare, or home visit expenses to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**
Paragon Mills Elementary School seeks to involve our community by having representatives from the community on the school-wide Title I committee. We also encourage parents to use the resources from the community by referring them to available services and by using community members as resource speakers for meetings and workshops. The school has very strong ties with our PENCIL Partners: Sonic, The Donelson Fellowship and Parallon Systems. They provide many educational and incentive programs for our students.

*Updated 5/15*