



Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Date: October 2, 2019

Midlands STEM Institute receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must develop jointly with the parents of children participating in Title I services, a written parent and family engagement policy that describes how the school will carry out the parent and family engagement requirements set forth in The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), section 1116(a)(2). This policy establishes Midlands STEM Institute expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement parent and family engagement activities.

Midlands STEM Institute will do the following:

- A. Involve parents and family members in the school's Title I program:
 - Hold an annual meeting to assist parents in understanding that their school receives Title I funds, that these funds come with requirements, and that parents and/or guardians have the right to be involved.
 - Provide parents timely information about the Title I program by email, letter sent home, and school website.
 - Involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's Title I program by inviting them to planning meetings and getting parent feedback.
 - Involve parents in the joint development of the school-wide program plan by inviting them to planning meetings and getting parent feedback.
- B. Implement the following actions to engage parents/families in the Parent and Family Engagement Policy by:
 - Develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents and family members of a written parent and family engagement policy. The written parent and family engagement policy shall meet these requirements: Written in an understandable format, provided in a language parents can understand, distributed to all parents, and made available to the local community.
 - Collect feedback annually to improve the policy's effectiveness in meeting the needs of the students and requirements of the Title I program.
 - Provide parents/families access to the information in this Parent and Family Engagement policy through open communication about the policy during parent meetings, such as sources for parental involvement opportunities through emails, letters sent home, and website postings. Parents will be notified of Title I planning meetings, review meetings, and opportunities for parent feedback.
 - Involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy through Title I planning meetings, review meetings, and opportunities for parent feedback.
- C. Develop jointly with parents and families a School Parent Compact which describes the following:
 - Outline how the parents, school staff, and students will share in the responsibility for improved student achievement.

- The school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served to meet the challenging State academic standards.
- The ways in which parents and family members will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and volunteering in their child's school, and positive use of extracurricular time.
- Address the importance of on-going communication between teachers and parents, and family members through; parent-teacher conferences, frequent reports to parents on their child's progress, the provision of reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate/observe in their child's class, and ensure communication is regular, two-way, and meaningful and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand.

D. Build the school and parent capacity for strong parent and family involvement through the following:

- Implement effective family engagement activities and involve families in school activities by holding 2 Meet and Greets, 2 Open Houses, weekly School Tours, Parent Surveys, and Community Outreach (4 Grab and Gabs at Bi-Lo and KJ's, 2 Restaurant Takeover, 5 Apartment Canvassing, 1 Farmer's Market, Fall Festival, Rock Around the Clock, Spirit Fest, International Day, Social Media Outreach through Face Book, Twitter, and Instagram).
- Conduct an annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the policy in improving the academic quality of the school, including identifying barriers to greater participation by families and utilize the findings to design strategies to support successful family interactions and to revise engagement policies.
- Provide assistance to parents in understanding topics such as the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, how to monitor their child's progress, and how to work with the school and teachers to improve the achievement of their children by holding Parent Teacher Conferences, through Parent Portal, Interims, weekly newsletter (Pony Express), and Google Classroom.
- Provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement by holding quarterly Academic Awareness nights.
- Educate teachers, personnel, and school leaders on the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to communicate and work with parents as equal partners and build ties between parents and the school by holding semester professional development trainings.
- Coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs by partnering with agencies such as Fairfield County Sheriffs' Department, Council on Aging, Fairfield Career and Technology Center, Fairfield County Behavioral Health, Fairfield County Recreational Center, Fairfield County Public Library, Fairfield Rotary and Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce.
- Provide parents 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 achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards by providing curriculum maps and curriculum descriptions on our school website under Parent Resources.

E. The school will make accommodations to support parent engagement through the following:

- Ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to parents in a format and language the parents can understand by having parents complete the Home Language Form, which allows parents to select which language they would like to receive communication.
- Encourage parent engagement by paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated parent involvement activities, including transportation, childcare, or home visit expenses to enable participation in school-related meetings and training sessions.
- Provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children.
- Arrange parent meetings, including parent conferences, at a variety of times and days to maximize parental engagement and program.
- Provide other reasonable support for parent involvement activities parents may request and provide, if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and will respond to any such suggestions within 7 school days.

