

Maria Montessori Academy
Policy: Parent and Family Engagement Policy
Approved: October 9, 2018
Reapproved: June 12, 2021



Purpose

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Maria Montessori Academy (the “School”) receives Title I, Part A funds and must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (the “ESSA”). This policy establishes the School’s expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement, describes how the School will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and is incorporated into the School’s plan submitted to the state pursuant to Section 1112 of the ESSA. The purpose of an effective parent and family engagement policy is to improve all students’ academic achievement.

Policy

The School agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116 of the ESSA:

- Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of this policy and the joint development of the targeted assistance or schoolwide program plan.
- Update this policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the School, distribute it to the parents and family members of participating children, and make this policy available to the local community.
- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, for the participation of parents and family members with limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the targeted assistance or schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of ESSA is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments with such plan when the School submits the plan to the state.
- Be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parent and family engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- *That parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;*

- *That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- *That parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees (if any) to assist in the education of their child; and*
- *The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA.*

Required Policy Components

Below is a description of how the School will implement or accomplish each of the following components required by Section 1116 of the ESSA:

- Joint Development of Policies, Plans, Compact, and Programs. The School will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I policies, plans, compact, and programs:
 - Distribute a copy of this policy and the school-parent compact to parents and family members at the beginning of each school year through appropriate channels, such as the registration packet. The policy and school-parent compact will also be posted on the School's website.
 - Notify parents and family members of an annual meeting where parents and family members will be informed about the School's participation in and the requirements of Title I programs.
 - Hold other parent and family meetings during the school year to provide parents and family members with ongoing information, training, and materials to help them work with their children in the areas such as literacy, numeracy, and technology.
 - Hold parent-teacher conferences at least annually, where student achievement, behavior, and/or the school-parent compact will be reviewed and discussed.
 - The School and state websites will provide parents with information related to expected student proficiency levels.
 - The School website will provide parents with a description and explanation of the School's curriculum, mission, calendar information, policies, and opportunities for school and parent interaction.
 - Conduct an annual review and evaluation of this policy, the school-parent compact, and targeted assistance or schoolwide program plan. As part of the annual review and evaluation, the School will consider, and implement if appropriate, any suggestions or feedback provided by parents and family members on how the School can improve this policy and the associated compact and plan. Suggestions or feedback may be provided to the School in the form of results from the School's needs assessment and evaluation given to parents, comments made by parents and family members in meetings at the School and during parent-teacher conferences, or through other means.

- Communications. The School will take the following actions to provide parents and family members timely information about the Title I programs in which the School participates:
 - Distribute a copy of the updated version of this policy and the school-parent compact to parents and family members at the beginning of each school year through appropriate channels, such as the registration packet.
 - Provide information related to the Title I programs, meetings, and other activities to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that the parents can understand.

- School-Parent Compact. The School's school-parent compact outlines how parents, the entire School staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the School and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards. The School will review the school-parent compact with parents of participating children by doing the following:
 - Distributing a copy of the updated version of the school-parent compact to parents and family members at the beginning of each school year through appropriate channels, such as the registration packet.
 - Obtaining all parties' signatures (electronic or written) on each school-parent compact on an annual basis.
 - Encouraging parents to review the school-parent compact with their children on a regular basis.
 - Considering, and implementing, if appropriate, any suggestions or feedback provided by parents and family members on how the School can improve its school-parent compact.

- Reservation of Funds. The School currently does not receive Title I allocations of \$500,000 or more. In the event the School's Title I allocations reach or exceed \$500,000 in the future, the School will follow the requirements in Section 1116(a)(3) of the ESSA.

- Coordination of Services. The School will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other federal, state, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

- Building Capacity of Parents. The School will build the parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the School and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:
 - Providing opportunities for discussion with parents about the School's curriculum, forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and achievement levels of the challenging state academic standards.

- Engaging parents with materials and training to help parents to work with their child to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement.
 - Giving parents information at parent-teacher conferences about their student's state core testing and other appropriate curriculum based assessments.
 - Providing progress reports to parents to communicate their student's academic performance throughout the school year.
 - Facilitating communication between parents and School personnel through the School's LAND Trust Committee.
 - Scheduling School meetings, as well as parent-teacher conferences, in a way that will maximize parent and family member involvement and participation.
 - Gathering, on an annual basis, input from parents through a variety of methods. For example, parent surveys, needs assessments, conversation, parent-teacher conferences, and School activities.
 - Providing assistance to parents, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 - The challenging state's academic standards;
 - The state and local academic assessments, including alternate assessments;
 - The requirements of Title I, Part A;
 - How to monitor their child's progress; and
 - How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child.
- Building Capacity of School Staff. The School will, with the assistance of parents, provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals/directors and other School leaders, and other staff on the value and utility of contributions of parents; how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners; how to implement and coordinate parent programs; and how to build ties between parents and the School. The School may accomplish this training through in-person trainings and/or through the utilization of online print and video resources. The School may also provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may reasonably request.

Review

The School will annually review and evaluate this policy, the school-parent compact, and the targeted assistance or schoolwide program plan to determine their effectiveness in improving the academic quality of the School and academic achievement of its students. Results of the annual review and evaluation will be used to design strategies for more effective parent and family engagement.