

### **Title I Parental Engagement/Parental Engagement**

The Board recognizes that parental engagement contributes to the achievement of academic standards by students participating in Title I programs. The Board views the education of students as a cooperative effort among the school, parents/guardians and community.

#### *Authority*

In compliance with federal law, GMCS and parents/guardians of students participating in Title I programs shall jointly develop and agree upon a written parental engagement policy. When developing and implementing this policy, GMCS shall ensure the policy describes how the charter school will:

1. Involve parents/guardians in the joint development of the charter school's overall Title I plan and the process of school review and improvement.
2. Provide the coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
3. Develop activities that promote the schools' and parents'/guardians' capacity for strong parental engagement.
4. Coordinate and integrate parental engagement strategies with appropriate programs, as provided by law.
5. Involve parents/guardians in an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the policy in improving the academic quality of schools served under Title I.
6. Identify barriers to participation by parents/guardians who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority.
7. Use findings of annual evaluations to design strategies for more effective parental engagement.
8. Involve parents/guardians in the activities of schools served under Title I.

The Board shall adopt and distribute the parental engagement policy, which shall be incorporated into GMCS's Title I plan and shall be evaluated annually, with parental engagement.

#### *Delegation of Responsibility*

The CEO/Principal or designee shall ensure that GMCS's Title I parental engagement policy, plan and programs comply with the requirements of federal law.

The CEO/Principal and/or Title I staff shall provide to parents/guardians of students participating in Title I programs:

1. Explanation of the reasons supporting their child's selection for the program.

2. Set of objectives to be addressed.
3. Description of the services to be provided.

The CEO/Principal shall ensure that information and reports provided to parents/guardians are in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents/guardians can understand.

#### *Guidelines*

An annual meeting of parents/guardians of participating Title I students shall be held to explain the goals and purposes of the Title I program. Parents/Guardians shall be given the opportunity to participate in the design, development, operation and evaluation of the program. Parents/Guardians shall be encouraged to participate in planning activities, to offer suggestions, and to ask questions regarding policies and programs.

In addition to the required annual meeting, additional parent/guardian meetings shall be held at various times of the day and evening. At these meetings, parents/guardians shall be provided:

1. Information about programs provided under Title I.
2. Description and explanation of the curriculum in use, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
3. Opportunities to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children.
4. Opportunities to submit parent/guardian comments about the program to the charter school level.

If sufficient, Title I funding may be used to facilitate parent/guardian attendance at meetings through payment of transportation and child care costs.

Opportunities shall be provided for parents/guardians to meet with the classroom and Title I teachers to discuss their child's progress.

Parents/Guardians may be given guidance as to how they can assist at home in the education of their child.

#### *School-Parental Compact*

Each school in the charter school receiving Title I funds shall jointly develop with parents/guardians of students served in the program a School-Parental Compact outlining the manner in which parents/guardians, school staff and students share responsibility for improved student achievement in meeting academic standards. The compact shall:

1. Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment, enabling students in the Title I program to meet the charter school's academic standards.

2. Indicate the ways in which parents/guardians will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, and television watching; volunteering in the classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions related to their child's education and positive use of extracurricular time.
3. Address the importance of parent-teacher communication on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum, parent-teacher conferences, frequent reports to parents/guardians, and reasonable access to staff.

#### *Guidelines*

In order to achieve the level of Title I parental engagement required by Board policy, the following guidelines will be implemented to guide the development of the charter school annual plan that is designed to foster a cooperative effort among the parents/guardians, school and community.

Parental engagement activities at each school will include opportunities for:

1. Volunteering.
2. Parent/Guardian education.
3. Home support for the student's education.
4. Parental participation in school decision-making.

GMCS will provide opportunities for professional development and resources for staff and parents/guardians and community members regarding effective parental engagement practices.

#### *Roles/Responsibilities*

1. Parents/Guardians – It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to:
  - a. Actively communicate with school staff.
  - b. Be aware of rules and regulations of school.
  - c. Take an active role in the student's education by reinforcing at home the skills and knowledge the student has learned in school.
  - d. Utilize opportunities for participation in school activities.
2. Staff – It is the responsibility of the school staff to:
  - a. Develop and implement a school plan for parental engagement.
  - b. Promote and encourage parental engagement activities.
  - c. Effectively and actively communicate with all parents/guardians about skills, knowledge and attributes student is learning in school and provide suggestions for reinforcement.

- d. Send information to parents/guardians in a format and a language the parents/guardians can understand, to the extent practicable.
3. Community – Community members who volunteer in the school have the responsibility to:
- a. Be aware of rules and regulations of the school.
  - b. Utilize opportunities for participation in school activities.
4. Administration – It is the responsibility of the administration to:
- a. Facilitate and implement the Title I Parental Engagement Policy.
  - b. Provide training and space for parental engagement activities.
  - c. Provide resources to support successful parental engagement practices.
  - d. Provide in-service education to staff regarding the value and use of contributions of parents/guardians and how to communicate and work with them as equal partners.
  - e. Send information to parents/guardians in a format and a language the parents/guardians can understand, to the extent practicable.