

GWA Parent and Family Engagement Policy Framework



A) Jointly Developed

Parents and family members will be involved in the development of the school parent and family engagement policy through committee review.

B) Parent/Family Input

1. Parents and family members will be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of parent and family member engagement programs through being a part of the Family Action Team led by the school counselor.
2. The school will provide parents and families with the opportunity for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and participate in decision-making regarding their children's education through participation on the Curriculum Committee. It is required to have at least one parent as part of the committee. Parents are invited to monthly Board meetings. Parents are also encouraged to be a part of the PTO, which contributes most of their time doing what's best for the school and the students.
3. Parents and family will be involved in the development of the schoolwide plan by being given time to review the plan and give feedback through a common document. A parent will also be involved in helping to create the plan alongside the administration.

C) Annual Title 1 Meeting

The school will convene an annual meeting at the beginning of each school through video recording and email to inform parents and families of the requirements of Title 1, the school's participation, and the parent's right to be involved.

D) Communication

1. GWA will notify parents and families of the engagement policy through clear and precise language. It will be delivered orally through a face-to-face meeting at Back to School night, as well as reiterated by classroom teachers during Student Lead Conferences and then in a written document: "GWA Parent-Student-School Compact".
2. GWA will notify parents and family regarding any Title 1 program in a timely manner. No less than two weeks prior to the initiation of the program will parents be informed through email or flyer home.

E) School-Parent/Family Compact

In order to jointly develop with parents a school-parent compact, a draft will be written and sent out to the Policy Committee (a parent is required to be a member), the Parent Board as well as the Leader in Me Lighthouse Family Action Team.

F) Capacity Building

1. GWA provides many opportunities for family capacity and strong parental and familial engagement. Our parents are encouraged and reminded to volunteer as much as possible. They are asked to come into classrooms to do clerical work or lead as the Room Parent. Parents are asked to present any expertise they have to the students. Parents organize and participate in the annual school Carnival, Talent show, etc. Monthly parent nights are conducted to support parents at home with social emotional and parenting skills.
2. In order to support parents and families to work with their children to improve academic achievement, STEM night was developed for all to participate and engage with family members. A fun literacy night for the family is planned to educate family members about reading and how to engage with reading at home.
3. GWA educates all faculty and staff on the value and usefulness of parent/family contributions by pointing out all the ways parents and families are useful, i.e. in the classroom, lunchroom, and out at recess. Administration dedicates training at the beginning of the year in regard to reaching out and communicating with and working with parents as equal partners in their child's education. Teachers are encouraged to invite parents collectively, individually, and personally to the classroom to support the learning of the students.
4. The Counselor at GWA coordinates and integrates parent and family engagement programs with other Federal, State, and local programs. One such program is the monthly family nights.
5. Information regarding any family program is communicated through the classroom teachers via their weekly newsletters. GWA also has a weekly newsletter that is sent home via email along with any printed flyers that are sent home with the students. GWA is aware of every family that may need an alternative language flyer to be sent home. Through the school counselor, such flyers are created to create equitable access to the information.
6. Any time a parent requests information to better understand any program, the office staff answers the question or provides the information necessary. If the office does not have the answer, they will find someone who can help with the answer.

G) Annual Evaluation

1. Every year, parents are asked to give feedback about school culture, curriculum, and classroom teachers through a parent survey that is created by GWA. Another survey is sent to parents through the Leader in Me program that measures school climate and culture with leadership.
 - a. Within the survey, parents are asked what are, if any, any difficulties they may be facing, i.e.: limited English, disabled, economically disadvantaged;
 - b. Within the survey, parents are asked if their academic needs are being met and if they are confident in helping their child at home. If not, what are they

needing.

c. Within the survey, parents are asked what has helped them the most to be involved at GWA.

2. GWA will use the findings of the annual evaluation to improve the practice that parents are needing to be more successful. Suggestions made to improve better family engagement will be seriously considered and the policy will be reevaluated every year during the summer to implement the new practice at the beginning of the school year.