

# General Louis Wagner Middle School

## Parent and Family Engagement Policy

*School Year 2020-21*

*Revision Date: 04/30/2020*

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Wagner Middle School** receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore 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(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

The **Wagner Middle School** agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- 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 the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school, distribute it to the parents of participating children, and make the parent and family engagement policy available to the local community.
- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.
- 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:

- (A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- (C) Parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child
- (D) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA

## DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

### **Section A: JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

**Wagner Middle School** will take the following actions to involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by parents, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

The school will:

- **Parents are invited to the Annual Spring Title I Meeting, during which time parent documents are reviewed and updated. This year, that meeting was held on April 30th, 2020 and this document was developed.**
- **Throughout the 2020-21 school year, parents will be invited to share their input/feedback during monthly SAC meetings and via parent survey.**

### **Section B: ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING**

**Wagner Middle School** will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents' requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

- **In September 2020, parents will be invited to attend the Annual Title I Meeting via the school calendar, school website, flyer, and school messenger (robo call). This meeting will include a presentation by the principal or designee giving parents information about the requirements of Title I part A, parent rights under Title I, the state academic content standards and assessments, working with educators as equal partners, and how to monitor their child's progress.**
- **Present information to parents and families at our annual Back to School Night, School Advisory Council meetings and other meetings related to Title I (Fall, Spring, and Winter Title I Parental Input meetings).**

### **Section C: COMMUNICATIONS**

**Wagner Middle School** will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children with (1) Timely information about the Title I programs, (2) Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, (3) transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement and may use Title I funds and (4) Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

The school will:

- **Copies of the completed parent policies will be sent home with all students. Additional copies of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and School Compact will be available on the Parent and Family Resource Rack that is located in the Main Office.**
- **Provide letters to parents and families in various languages based on the information in the Student Information System, in coordination with translation services available through the district Multilingual office. All communication will be done in parent friendly language.**
- **Parent meetings will be advertised in advance and held at various times in order to increase parent attendance and participation.**

#### **Section D: SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT**

**Wagner Middle School** will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that 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:

- **Annually evaluate the school compact during the Spring Title I meeting and revise as necessary based on feedback from parents, families, staff and students. Parent input was solicited at a meeting on April 30, 2020.**
- **Copies of the completed version will be shared with parents and families via bookbags the Parent Resource Rack, various parents and families meetings and school website.**

#### **Section E: RESERVATION OF FUNDS**

**Wagner Middle School** will take the following actions to involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent by:

- **Principal will share budget with parents and families at the annual Spring and Winter Title I Parent Input meetings. Parents will be provided with an opportunity to discuss purchases and give input into how Title I funds should be spent, including the 1% parent set aside. This year that meeting was held on January 17th, 2020.**
- **Principal will share budget information with parents and families at the School Advisory Council meetings**
- **Feedback and inputs will be gathered during the meetings or via a survey.**

#### **Section F: COORDINATION OF SERVICES**

**Wagner Middle 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 by:

- **Inform parents and community members via school website about available programs and services through the Office of Specialized Services and the Office of Family and Community Engagement.**

### **Section G: BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS**

**Wagner Middle 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:

1. Providing parents with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and
2. 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
3. Providing assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
  - a) The challenging State's academic standards
  - b) The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
  - c) The requirements of Title I, Part A
  - d) How to monitor their child's progress
  - e) How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child

- **Wagner Middle School will coordinate and host workshops and events that will empower parents and families to support school-home learning connections. Topics are informed by parent feedback and include topics such as: Progress Monitoring via the Parent Portal, Literacy and Math workshops, High School Selection Process, Preparing for High School, Preparing for the PSSA. During the Annual Title I meeting the Principal or her designee will discuss the state's academic standards and assessments, information about the Title I requirements, and how to monitor their child's progress. Parents will also be provided with information on how to effectively work with teachers and staff and the school curriculum.**

### **Section H: BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF**

**Wagner Middle School** will provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school by:

- **During a scheduled professional development day in the Fall, the Principal will provide training to staff about providing positive communication with parents and building**

**effective partnerships. The results of the school level parent surveys will be shared with staff to further increase positive communication with parents and families.**

**Wagner Middle School** will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:

- **Family Literacy Event**
- **Parent and Family Portal Training**
- **Students Performances**
- **After School Extracurricular Activities**
- **Student Council**
- **Monthly School Advisory Council meetings**
- **Robo calls as needed.**

Dr.Maya Johnstone  
**(Principal Signature)**

September 14, 2020  
**(Date)**