

# Title I Parent & Family Engagement Policy & Compact

## Purpose of this Policy and Compact

*Efforts will be made to clearly articulate the school's intentions to engage with and involve parents/caregivers in the educational process.*

Mount Eagle Elementary is a Title I school within Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) and utilizes the Title I grant to improve student achievement and help all students meet the objectives of the FCPS Program of Studies and the Virginia Standards of Learning. A partnership with families is essential to meeting this goal.

Under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, schools that receive Title I funds are expected to collaborate with families to develop and maintain a parent and family engagement policy that describes the school's approach to involve families in students' learning and includes a compact expressing the partnerships among staff, caregivers, and students to reach high academic goals for every student.

Mount Eagle Elementary jointly developed this policy and compact with members of the school community and adopted it for the 2023-2024 school year. Several the provisions specifically address state or federal expectations for the policy and compact.

This policy and compact is distributed to all caregivers in a language that families can understand. Caregivers have opportunities to provide comments and feedback on the policy and compact through feedback forms, school meetings and communications with the school principal. Comments are submitted with the school's policy and compact to FCPS central offices and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). This policy and compact are made available to the broader school community through the school website.

## Important Dates

### Parent-Teacher Conferences

- Mid-October through mid-December 2023
- additional dates, as needed

### Progress Report Distribution-paper copy sent home

- November 16, 2023
- February 8, 2024
- April 11, 2024
- June 12, 2024

### School Events

- Welcome Walk: August 17, 2023
- Open House: August 18, 2023
- Annual Meeting: August 23, 2023
- Back to School Night: September 13, 2023
- Earth Day: April 27, 2024



## Building Capacity for Engagement

***Efforts will be made to ensure parents/caregivers are actively involved in the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the school's Title I program, including the following:***

- ◇ Provide family members a voice in decision-making on committees, such as School Leadership Council.
- ◇ Engage caregiver input when developing the School Improvement and Innovation Plan (SIIP), Comprehensive Needs Assessment, the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Compact and plans for use of Title I family engagement funding.
- ◇ Seek feedback from families on programs within the SIIP, offer multiple methods for caregivers to submit comments about programs they may not find satisfactory, and submit any such comments with SIIP to FCPS central offices.
- ◇ Invite family members to help in organizing and executing a variety of school events to build collective ownership, such as Earth Day.
- ◇ Provide opportunities for caregivers to volunteer within the school in various ways, such as support classes at lunch and create materials for learning.
- ◇ Encourage families to take part in the annual evaluation of the division-level Title I parent and family engagement policy in order to identify:
  - ◇ barriers to greater family participation,
  - ◇ ways to help family members be better able to assist in student learning, and
  - ◇ strategies to support successful school and family interactions.

## Effective Communication with Parents

***Efforts will be made to ensure parents/caregivers receive meaningful communication in a timely manner, including the following:***

- ◇ Use multiple methods of communication to families such as emails & texts about important topics from the principal in multiple languages as well as a weekly newsletter.
- ◇ Encourage all caregivers to attend an annual meeting on August 24, 2023 to share information about Title I services, explain Title I grant requirements, and inform families of their right to be involved in the school.
- ◇ Share school and student performance data with families in ways that seek their ideas about how to improve performance toward Virginia's challenging academic standards.
- ◇ Provide opportunities throughout the year for families to better understand the school's goals for students and find ways to improve student learning by sharing results in our newsletter as well as through individual reports to families. Additionally, teachers meet individually with each parent to share assessment data in the fall.
- ◇ Maintain resources for caregivers to review student assignments and ongoing communication about student work, such as postings in Schoology. All teachers are using Talking Points to communicate with families in their home language and are providing a weekly communication sheet about what is learned that week.
- ◇ Provide ongoing feedback on student progress through quarterly progress reports that show specific areas of proficiency and areas for continued growth.
- ◇ Hold parent-teacher conferences for all students at least annually in the fall and more often, as needed.

## Shared Responsibilities for High Academic Achievement

*Efforts will be made to ensure parents/caregivers receive materials, training, and benefits from school partnerships with social and academic services, community-based organizations, and businesses, including the following:*

- ◇ Hold workshops connecting caregivers to tools and resources, such as how to support their child with social media and preparing for annual assessments.
- ◇ Offer regular opportunities for families to learn directly from school staff about the school's academic, behavioral, and social programming through town hall meetings, weekly newsletter and emails from the principal.
- ◇ Encourage participation in family learning events where caregivers learn strategies to support their child's learning at home and have a chance to practice those strategies with their child, such as Partners in Print.
- ◇ Provide ongoing access to resources in the school, such as a parent resource center.
- ◇ Provide opportunities to donate and access supplies donated by others, such as our backpack giveaway.
- ◇ Support parents in accessing county and community resources, such as vouchers for glasses, reduced fee WiFi with cable companies, referral for community mental health services.
- ◇ Offer outreach and training for targeted families, such as food bags and accessing food.

## Welcoming All Families

*Efforts will be made to ensure that all parents/caregivers are welcomed and provided opportunities to actively engage within the school, including the following:*

- ◇ Create a welcoming atmosphere at the school with encouraging families to walk their child to class.
- ◇ Provide interpretation services for parent-teacher conferences, workshops, and meetings.
- ◇ Translate or provide interpretation of all school documents and communication to make them accessible in the caregiver's preferred correspondence language and for those with vision or hearing impairments.
- ◇ Support two-way communication between families and staff through assistance of a family liaison for translating newsletters and interpreting at meetings—individual and schoolwide as well as use of Talking Points.
- ◇ Expand access for family participation in informational meetings and learning sessions through providing online option, interpretation, offering at various times.

# Compact Provisions

*School staff, parents/caregivers, and students must work together to ensure a student success.*

## **The staff will:**

**Provide a high-quality curriculum and instruction that enables students to meet challenging academic standard through the following actions:**

- ◇ Teach all students according to the state's challenging standards, using approved curriculum resources.
- ◇ Provide ongoing professional development and support to all teachers to ensure effective instructional practices are used in all classrooms.
- ◇ Promote problem solving and students' conceptual understanding of math by facilitating academic discussions, promoting multiple entry points into problems and leading math workshop with flexible groups.
- ◇ Focus on both the important skills of decoding as well as comprehension.

**Provide a supportive and effective learning environment for students through the following actions:**

- ◇ Provide clear expectations for student behavior and academic learning.
- ◇ Offer a variety of resources to help students with their learning.
- ◇ Implement a Responsive Classroom approach including morning meeting, logical consequences and ensuring a clear understanding of procedures & expectations so that students can be successful

**Provide assistance to caregivers in understanding the school's program through the following actions:**

- ◇ Hold an annual meeting to present information on the school's Title I programs, state and division curriculum and assessments, and the school's state and federal accountability status.
- ◇ Provide multiple opportunities for caregivers to ask questions and give input into the Title I programs.
- ◇ Regularly communicate with families as issues arise and enlist their input and support as problem solvers
- ◇ Send home a Weekly Communication Sheet that shares what was taught that week, questions to ask the student and activities the parent & student can do at home to support learning. This is translated.

**Build caregivers' involvement in the school's Title I program through the following actions:**

- ◇ Include caregivers as members of the School Improvement and Innovation Planning (SIIP) Committee and as collaborators in developing the SIIP and plans for the use of Title I family engagement funds.

## **The parents/caregivers will:**

**Demonstrate understanding that participation in my child's education will help his or her achievement through the following actions:**

- ◇ Participate in decisions related to school programs and my child's education and share my questions or comments about the programs in my child's school.
- ◇ Volunteer in my child's classroom or in school activities, as my schedule allows.
- ◇ Encourage and support my child's learning at home and at school.
- ◇ Connect with my child's teacher when I have questions and/or concerns
- ◇ Keep my child home when they are sick.

## **The student will:**

**Share the responsibility to improve my academic learning to achieve the state's challenging standards through the following's actions:**

- ◇ Get enough sleep every night.
- ◇ Come to school on time unless I am sick.
- ◇ Try my hardest and work with my classmates to complete learning tasks.
- ◇ Give my parents all notes and papers from my teacher.
- ◇ Ask for help when I need it, whether it's a schoolwork problem or a problem with another person.

