

Joseph Catharine Elementary School Parent and Family Engagement Policy

School Year 2020-2021 Revision Date: May 2nd, 2020

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Joseph Catharine** 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).

Joseph Catharine 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 1, 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 a 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

Joseph Catharine 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. In the Spring of 2020, parents were encouraged to attend a meeting in which they could review and give input into this document, as well as the Compact. Parents were notified of this meeting through flyers and monthly calendars sent home with students as well as a phone blast. We held meetings for input on the 2020-2021 parent documents on March 21st and May 2nd, 2020.

Section B: ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Joseph Catharine 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. We will hold an Annual Title I meeting on Back to School Night in September 2020 where we will invite all parents to participate. During this meeting, we will inform them about the Title I program. We will also provide and

send home a copy of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy at that time. Parents will be notified by flyer, monthly calendar and robocall.

Section C: COMMUNICATIONS

Joseph Catharine 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.
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1. Parents will be given the Parent Engagement Policy and Compact during Back to School Night as well as sent home with students in their communication folder.
 2. These documents are also uploaded to our website.
 3. Parents are notified about various meetings, assemblies, and events during the school year through flyers and monthly calendars sent home with students as well as through a phone blast.
 4. Meetings, training, and workshops are held at various times of the day to accommodate all families and their schedules, All communications sent home are in the family home language. Any translation can be made available upon request.

Section D: SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Joseph Catharine 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.

- In the Spring of 2020, parents were encouraged to attend a meeting in which they could review and give input into this document, as well as the Compact.
- Parents were notified of this meeting through flyers and monthly calendars sent home with students as well as a phone blast.
- We held meetings for input on the 2020-2021 parent documents on March 21st and May 2nd, 2020.

- Parents will again be invited to revision meeting for next year's compact in the spring 2020

Section E: RESERVATION OF FUNDS

• **Joseph Catharine** will take the following actions to involve the parents of children served in Title 1, 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: In the winter, parents are encouraged to attend a budget review meeting. At this time, parents can give input into how they would like to see the parent involvement funds to be spent. The Parent Involvement funds will be used to purchase summer bridge books to prevent the summer slide as well as various books to give to parents who attend workshops and training throughout the year.

Section F: COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Joseph Catharine 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:

- Gemma Services- provides after-school programming for students in grades 1 to 4
- The MainLine Arts center will provide enrichment for students in grades 5
- Invite public preschools to the kindergarten open house in the spring
- Make parent resource center in 102 available for families
- During parent workshops coordinate with outside community partners to present resources, services, and goods available to assist families.

Section G: BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Joseph Catharine 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.

Various workshops and training are offered to parents throughout the school year. Some of the topics being covered are:

- How to register/access the parent portal,
- Literacy night and Math night.
- How to access google classroom and assist your child with classwork
- Parent Workshop Read To Succeed
- Parent Town Hall
- Winter SAC/Title I Meeting

During the Annual Title I meeting, held each September, we share with parents the requirements of Title I, Part A, the State's academic standards and local academic assessments. There are three report card conferences throughout the school year, November, February, and April, with an evening conference offered once per year. Families that cannot attend are offered virtual or phone conferences at alternate dates/times. During these conferences, teachers will discuss with parents tools for how to monitor their child's progress.

Section H: BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

• **Joseph Catharine** 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:

- Making surveys available to parents during all events, meetings, and conferences.

- Sharing the results of parent surveys with staff during Professional developments throughout the school year.
- Training staff (August) on how to communicate and work with parents as equal partners.

Joseph Catharine will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:

- Hosting multi-lingual parent workshops
- Providing opportunities to increase parent volunteerism
- Providing monthly instructional resources to help parents understand core instructional programs

Principal Signature