



Girard Academic Music Program
Parent and Family Engagement Policy
School Year 2020-2021
Revision Date: 04/28/2020

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Girard Academic Music Program** 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 **Girard Academic Music Program** 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

Girard Academic Music Program 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, parents are encouraged to attend a meeting in which they can review and give input into this document as well as the Compact. This year’s Spring parent input meeting was held on April 28, 2020. Additionally, Parents provided input and had the opportunity to participate in decisions related to Title I programs and make suggestions related to improving education for their child and all children through the following:

- School Advisory Council (SAC) - monthly
- Home and School Meetings – monthly
- Tea with the Principal and/or Virtual Town Hall (bi-monthly)

Section B: ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Girard Academic Music Program 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 hold an Annual Title I meeting each year in the Fall on Back to School Night. This year’s meeting will occur in September 2020, where we will invite all parents to participate. During this meeting, we will inform them about the Title I program, requirements of Title I part A, teacher qualifications and parent rights to know, state academic content standards and assessments, how to monitor student progress and work with educators. We will also provide and send home a copy of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy as well as the compact at that time. Parents will be notified about the meeting by flyer, monthly calendar and school messenger.

Section C: COMMUNICATIONS

Girard Academic Music Program will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children with (1) Timely information about Title I programs, (2) Maintain a diverse meeting schedule to maximize opportunities for engagement; for instance, we will hold meetings in morning and evening time slots, (3) Consider transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent

and family engagement and may benefit from Title I funds and provide (4) Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, ensuring it 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.

Parents are notified of meetings through email, our weekly on-line newsletter, the monthly school calendar and school messenger. Meetings are held both in the morning and evening (Tea w/ Principal-AM; Home & School and SAC-PM). All information is available in multiple languages and in parent friendly language to accommodate family needs. The Parent Family Compact and Engagement policy will be distributed to all families in our student planners and posted on our school website. Translations are available upon request.

Section D: SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Girard Academic Music Program 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, parents are encouraged to attend a meeting in which they have the opportunity to review and give input into this document, as well as the Compact. Parents were notified of this meeting through our online newsletter, the school website and through school messenger. This parent input meeting was held on April 28th, 2020.

Section E: RESERVATION OF FUNDS

Girard Academic Music Program 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:

During the Winter meeting, held January 21, 2020, parents had the opportunity to provide input and make suggestions into the School plan and budget. At this time, parents give input into how they would like to see the parent involvement funds to be spent and provide feedback on what type of support they would like to see enacted. With these suggestions in mind, we are moving forward in updating our inventory of textbooks and providing greater access to the school handbook, potentially accompanied by training for parents and booklets for our welcome center. At our monthly SAC meeting in April, the final school budget was shared for the upcoming school year.

Section F: COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Girard Academic Music Program 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. To that end, we house a library of resources in the Counselor's office to provide information about student scholarship opportunities, colleges and universities, neighborhood organizations with youth programs, and other local, city, and state programs for GAMP families. This past year, specific programs drew on these resources through:

- College Night: This event pulls in representatives from various local colleges to help our high school students make informed choices about higher education. In 2019-20, 18 colleges and institutions took part in this event, including the University of Pennsylvania,

Drexel, St. Joseph's, Lasalle, the University of the Arts, Cheyney University, Widener University, and the Community College of Philadelphia.

- TEACH: an organization that works with the school to offer SAT and ACT classes. TEACH also runs a parent night at the school every year to explain the difference between SAT and ACT and how to prepare for both.
- GENA – Girard East Neighborhood Association is a volunteer neighborhood organization that helps preserve and enhance the residential quality of life in our neighborhood. We work with this organization to advocate for the community, including our students, and maintain a clearinghouse for information and community events.

Section G: BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Girard Academic Music Program 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. Special emphasis will be placed on providing parents and families that lead to equitable access and opportunity to engage with online learning and the technologies needed to facilitate it.
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. One of the topics covered is using Infinite Campus (online gradebook and use of student portal to see available resources). 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 each time. During these conferences teachers discuss with parents, how to work with educators and monitor their child's progress. Parents will also receive this information during 5th, 6th and 9th grade orientation for parents and students.

Section H: BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Girard Academic Music Program 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:

Surveys are made available to parents during all events, meetings and conferences. The results of the parent surveys are tallied and shared with staff during Professional Development throughout the school year. In August, staff will be trained on how to best communicate and collaborate with parents as partners in student learning.

Girard Academic Music Program will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:

- Parent conferencing as needed
- Tea with the Principal (bi-monthly)
- Home and School meetings
- SAC meetings

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY DISCRETIONARY COMPONENTS

- Train parents to enhance the engagement of other parents. This will be facilitated through our Home and School Homeroom parents. A workshop will be held in the fall to assist new parents and all homeroom parents in developing strategies to engage more families.

Organizations we partner with:

- Women of Tomorrow: An organization that provides mentorship and scholarships empowers at-risk young women to live up to their full potential.
- After School Activities Partnership: This group helps facilitate a variety of afterschool clubs and activities for Philadelphia schools. In 2019-20, we worked with them to set up a Chess Club, and we plan to work with them to add additional clubs.
- Lantern Theater: Teaching-actors work with our high school students on literature and drama projects. In 2020-21, they will coordinate with our 9th grade students and teaching staff on *Romeo and Juliet*
- University of Pennsylvania: We partner with the university on a range of outreach and educational opportunities. In 2019-20, our teaching staff was part of the “Unlocking the Past” program, which facilitated classroom activities that were coordinated with a trip to the museum itself.
- GEAR (Girard Estates Association of Residences): Our school falls within the boundaries served by this neighborhood organization, and we work with the group on community service and outreach programs.
- Kimmel Center: The Center provides educational outreach, including scheduling workshops at the school, and provides free tickets for select events.
- Walnut Street Theater: The theater provides educational outreach, including scheduling workshops at the school, and provides free tickets for select events.
- Clef Club: The Club offers lessons for qualifying GAMP students and coordinates to produce performances at the school.
- Philly Pops: In addition to provide funding for our music programs, this organization works with the school to coordinate joint performances including our students.
- Lock Law: As part of the Advancing Civics Education (ACE) program, members of the firm visit the school to help educate our 8th grade students about civics.

Jovan A. Moore
Principal Signature

9/1/2020
Date