



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

Austin Meehan Middle School

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

School Year 2021-2022

Revision Date:

5/11/2021

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Austin Meehan 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).

Austin Meehan 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

Austin Meehan 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 Spring Title I Parent Meeting is held each year to allow parents the opportunity for review and input into the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and School Parent Compact. This year's meeting was held on May 11, 2021. Some additional meetings, held each year, give parents the opportunity to collaborate with Administration as follows:
Back to School Night/Annual Title I (enlightening event)/ Star Party September 2020(TBA)
Meeting with our Home and School Representatives once reestablished and School Advisory Council on an as needed basis.
Planned parent information sessions/workshops (TBA)
Winter Title I- (Winter 2021-2022 parent input into 2022-2023 budget and school plan)*

Section B: ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Austin Meehan 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.

Austin Meehan holds the Annual Title I meeting in the Fall each year, during our annual Back to School Night. This meeting gives us the opportunity to meet with parents/guardians to discuss the components outlined above along with the Title I process, funding and goals.

Section C: COMMUNICATIONS

Austin Meehan 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.

Some of the ways we communicate with our parents is through the use of the Parent Portal, our school website and the student agenda/planner given out to all students each year. Messages are posted monthly and updated as needed to our website (updated by Technology Leader). All communications with parents will be sent home in parent friendly language and can be translated into multiple world languages through the district of translation services, up request as needed.

Section D: SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Austin Meehan 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 Spring Title I Parent Meeting is held each year to allow parents the opportunity to review and provide input into the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and School Parent Compact. This year's meeting was held on May11, 2021.

Section E: RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, Austin Meehan 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:

Each school year we hold the Winter Title I meeting to give parents the opportunity to review and give feedback into the school plan and budget, including the parent set-aside. This year's meeting was held on February 9, 2021. The 1% Title I Parent Involvement funds will be used to purchase materials to support instruction at home, as well as to pay staff to hold evening parent workshops. Some of these funds will be used for printing and mailing of Title I documents.

Section F: COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Austin Meehan 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:

Through our monthly School Advisory Council (SAC) meetings, all community partners are invited to attend and share supports their organization offers with our parents. Community members are often included in SAC agendas to share with our school community how a partnership with them will best serve Meehan stakeholders.

Section G: BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Austin Meehan 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:

- 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
- 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
- Providing assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 - The challenging State's academic standards
 - The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
 - The requirements of Title I, Part A
 - How to monitor their child's progress
 - How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child

Each year in the Fall, during Back to School Night/Annual Title I Meeting we provide parents with information regarding the Title I programs, State and local assessments and standards as well as how to monitor their child's progress. Report Card Conferences are held three times per school year which gives parents an additional opportunity to learn how to monitor their child's progress and to work with educators to improve achievement. Additionally, parents have the opportunity to participate in monthly SAC meetings with the principal during which time training and materials are provided.

Section H: BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Austin Meehan 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:

Each year, during district mandated professional development days, all staff are trained on how to communicate and work with parents as equal partners.. This is done with the input of parents through school surveys, parent word of mouth, and the state SPAC videos.

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

*On Site Counseling for students followed but additional supports as needed I.E. SAP Process, help seeking additional outside supports.
Various ways to contact the school and receive information from the school and school district via the web, mailing and in person parental visits to the school for activities and functions.
Via School Website*

Principal's Signature

Abdul-Mubdi Muhamad

Date Signed

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