



Martha Washington Academics Plus School Parent and Family Engagement Policy

School Year 2019-2020

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Martha Washington Academics Plus 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 Martha Washington Academics Plus 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 school wide 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 school wide 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 ESSA.

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

Section A: JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Martha Washington Academics Plus 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 hold a Winter and Spring meeting to review the school budget, Parent and Family Engagement Plan, School Compact and Schoolwide Plan.**
- **This Parent and Family Engagement Policy was jointly developed at the Annual Spring Title I meeting on 3/26/19.**
- **Parents will be invited Back to School Night, Winter and Spring Title I Parental Input meetings.**
- **Parents will also be invited to join the Home and School Association and the school Advisory Council where they may participate in school activities and District/ Region initiatives.**
- **Parents will be given a needs assessment survey to develop relevant programs to support student achievement.**

Section B: ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Martha Washington Academics Plus 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 school wide plan, and the school-parent compact.

- **The Annual Title I meeting will be held in September 2019 to inform Parents of:**
 - 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
 - the requirements of Title I and the school's participation as well as the parents' rights to be involved.
 - Curriculum
- **The Annual Title I meeting is an opportunity to provide information and distribute copies of the revised parent and family engagement policy. At this time, we will share our Parent Engagement Policy and School Parent Compact and review all information related to Title I including parent rights and responsibilities, school curriculum, teacher qualifications, the state content standards and assessments, and ways to work with educators and monitor student progress.**

Section C: COMMUNICATIONS

Martha Washington Academic Plus 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.

- 1) **The Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be distributed to all parents during Back to School Night in September 2019.**
- 2) **Parents and Families will receive correspondence about school and parent programs, meetings, workshops, and school activities through robo-calls and backpack mail.**
- 3) **All communication from the school is sent to parents in easy-to-read language and in the languages spoken at home as requested. The Office of Family and Community Engagement is able to support the school in translating documents and telephone communication with non-English speaking parents upon request.**

Section D: SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Martha Washington Academic Plus 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.

- **Parents and Families will be invited to the Spring Title I meeting to give input and feedback for the School-Parent Compact.**
- **This year's School-Parent Compact was jointly developed with families and school leadership at the Spring Title I meeting on 3/26/19.**

Section E: RESERVATION OF FUNDS

Martha Washington Academic Plus 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:

Parents will be invited to a Spring School Advisory Council meeting and the Title I Winter meeting to discuss the school budget, including the 1% set aside funds reserved for parent and family engagement. Parents will be able to provide input on the priorities and needs of the school, to help shape spending decisions.

Section F: COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Martha Washington Academic Plus 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:

- **Partnering with Lindy Scholars Program**
- **Partnering with the ACE afterschool Program**

- Partnering with the Legacy Tennis Program
- Partnering with the Ward AME Church
- Kindergarten teachers will meet with public preschool teachers to coordinate a transition plan to successfully transition preschool students into kindergarten through the Building Bridges program.
- The school will coordinate with the District Office of Family and Community Engagement to provide workshops for parents and other resources to help parents support their student's learning at home.

Section G: BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Martha Washington Academic Plus 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
 - Parents and Families will be invited to participate in parent workshops that will address Literacy, Technology, Math and PSSA Prep.
 - Topics a) through e) listed above are covered in a powerpoint presentation that staff will present to parents as part of our Annual Title I Parent Meeting at back to school night in September 2019.
 - The Annual Title I meeting will be held in September 2019 to inform parents of:
 - 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
 - the requirements of Title I and the school's participation as well as the parents' rights to be involved.
 - Curriculum

Section H: BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

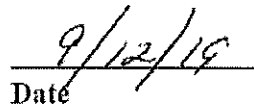
Martha Washington Academic Plus School will provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate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

- **Professional Development for staff focused on appropriate and effective communication with parents at a district PD day in the Fall. Results of parent surveys will also be incorporated into this PD to inform decision making about the development of parent engagement activities and protocols.**
- **Scheduled weekly MTSS and grade group meetings**
- **Leadership Team meetings monthly**

Martha Washington Academic Plus School will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:

Our School Leadership Team is open to all suggestions to enhance family engagement and encourages parents to reach out with requests for support or ideas to strengthen our school community.


Principal Signature


Date