

Girard Academic Music Program **Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

School Year 2019-2020
Revision Date: 04/15/2019

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 of 2019, parents were encouraged to attend a meeting in which they could review and give input into this document as well as the Compact. This parent input meeting was held on April 15, 2019. Parents give input and have the opportunity to participate in decisions related to Title I programs and make share suggestions related to improving education for their child and all children through the following:

- o School Advisory Council (SAC) - monthly
- o Home and School Meetings – monthly
- o Coffee with the Principal (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 will hold an Annual Title I meeting on Back to School Night in September 2019 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 at that time. Parents will be notified 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 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. Parent are notified of meetings through email, weekly online newsletter, monthly calendar and school messenger.**
- 2. Meetings are held both in the morning and evening such as coffee with the principal (AM), Home and School meetings and School Advisory Council (PM).**
- 3. All information is available in multiple languages to accommodate parent needs.**
- 4. 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 of 2019, 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 school messenger. This parent input meeting was held on April 15th, 2019.

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:

At our monthly SAC meeting the school budget was shared for the upcoming school year. SAC members have the opportunity to provide input and make suggestions on how the money is used to support students. At this time, parents can give input into how they would like to see the parent involvement funds to be spent. Tentatively Parent Involvement will be spent on providing training to parents and booklets for our welcome center. Parents will also be given budget information and have input into the use of Title I funds, including the parent set aside, at the annual Winter and Spring Title I parent meetings.

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 by:

- **Women of Tomorrow**
- **Lantern Theater**
- **Drexel**
- **University of Pennsylvania**
- **GEAR (Girard Estates Association of Residences)**
- **Kimmel Center**
- **Walnut Street Theater**
- **Clef Club**
- **Philly Pops**
- **GENA – Girard East Neighborhood Association**

These organizations provide support to students, and at times, to families.

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
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 trainings are offered to parents throughout the school year. One of the topics being covered is for 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 will 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:

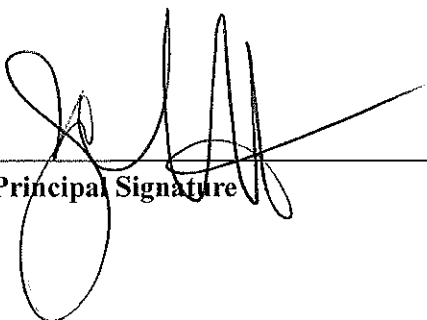
Surveys are made available to parents during all events, meetings and conferences. The results of the parent surveys are tallied and shared with staff during professional developments throughout the school year. In August, staff will be trained on how to communicate and work with parents as equal partners.

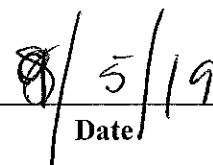
Girard Academic Music Program will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:

- **Parent conferencing as needed**
- **Coffee 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 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.


Principal Signature


Date

