



## PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

(Approved by the Board of Trustees March 8, 2023)

### **I. Introduction**

Research has shown that the attitudes, behavior, and achievement of children are enhanced when parents or other caregivers are involved in their children's education. To that end, the Golden Valley River School (the "School") has adopted this parent and family engagement policy in order to promote learning and provide a more positive learning experience for the students of the School.<sup>1</sup>

### **II. Annual Meeting**

The School shall convene an annual meeting to which all parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs are invited and encouraged to attend. The School will hold additional meetings to ensure maximum parental participation, providing the same information to be offered at flexible times, such as in the morning or evening.

The information provided at the meetings will inform parents of the School's receipt of Title I, Part A funds and the specific requirements of Title I, Part A. Additionally, parents shall be informed of their rights to be involved in Title I, Part A programs.

### **III. Notice**

Within 60 days of the beginning of school, the School will send a notice to parents of participating children containing, but not limited to, the following information:

- Information about Title I, Part A programs;
- An explanation of the requirements of Title I, Part A programs;
- A description of the rights parents have for participation in Title I, Part A programs;
- A description (including timing of meetings, location, etc.) of how parents can participate in the planning, review and/or improvement of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy;
- A description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the School, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards;
- An invitation to attend the annual meeting and additional meetings, providing information about the purpose of the meetings and the dates and times.
- A copy of the most current Parent and Family Engagement Policy and a feedback form for parents to comment on its content.

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<sup>1</sup> Within this policy, the word "parent" is employed. This word is intended to reach any caregiver of students enrolled in the School, including but not limited to, parents, guardians, grandparents, aunts, uncles, foster parents, stepparents, etc.



#### **IV. Title I, Part A Program Involvement**

In order to involve parents in an organized, ongoing and timely way in the planning, review and improvement of Title I, Part A programs, the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the School will involve parents of participating students as follows:

- If requested by parents of participating children, the School will schedule regular meetings where parents are able to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children. The School will respond to such suggestions within 10 days.

#### **V. Building Capacity for Involvement**

##### **A. Standards, Assessments, Title I Requirements, Monitoring Progress and Improving Student Achievement**

In order to ensure effective parental involvement and support a partnership among the School, parents and the community to improve student academic achievement, the School will provide the following programs to assist parents in understanding the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, Title I requirements, and how to monitor their child's progress and work with educators to improve the academic achievement of their children (collectively referred to as "Standards and Requirements"):

- Each grade level will hold a minimum of two Parent Meetings per year so that parents may mingle with their child's teacher to find out specific ways to help with educating their child.
- On the School's website, it will provide a link to its School Accountability Report Card on the California Department of Education's website.

##### **B. Helping Parents to Work with their Children**

In an effort to foster parental involvement, the School will provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement through the following programs:

- The School will provide parents of limited English proficiency with access to English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to increase their English language proficiency to assist their children with homework. The School's principal will visit the classes to interact with the parents.
- The School will provide parents with access to classes to obtain their GED.
- The School will provide parents with access to literacy programs that bond families around reading and using the public library.



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- The School will provide parent enrichment offerings on parenting skills and parent-child communication.
- The School's psychologist will work with parents to better understand their children and the issues facing them.

**C. Education on Parent Involvement**

The School will annually 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. The training shall take place each year in staff orientations, annual staff development materials and other in-service trainings held throughout the school year.

In order to better understand what works best for the current parents of participating children attending the School, the education will take place after the following research is done (which shall be accomplished within the first 30 days of the commencement of the School year):

- A survey will be sent home to parents of participating students which solicits information on what skills each parent has to offer the School and what types of parental involvement programs in which parents would most likely participate.

**D. Coordination with Other Programs**

The School shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement 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.

The School will coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with these programs as follows:

- Designating family engagement as one of the school's Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) goals, including associated actions, services, expenditures, and annual measurable outcomes.
- Coordinating parent and family engagement activities and strategies with other programs including Special Education, English Learner, and programs to support families in participating in the education programs for their students.

**E. Other Optional Parent Participation**

The School will involve parents in the development of the training regarding the importance of parent involvement for teachers, principals and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training by soliciting feedback on annual parent input surveys.



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The School will provide parent enrichment offerings for parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.

In order to maximize parental involvement and participation, the School will arrange school meetings at various times or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at the School.

The School will adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement.

The School will develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities, such as sponsoring events, providing volunteers for school activities, creating internships for students, etc.

**VI. School-Parent Compact**

At the beginning of each school year, the School will enter in to School-Parent Compacts with parents of participating children. The School-Parent Compact will outline 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 Parent Council will annually evaluate the effectiveness of the School-Parent Compact and provide feedback and suggestions for revision.

**VII. Involvement of Parents of Limited English Proficient Students, Disabled Parents and Parents of Migratory Children**

The School will provide full opportunities for participation for parents and family members of limited English proficient students, disabled parents and parents of migratory children. To accomplish this goal, the School will do the following:

- The School will provide language translators at parent meetings to the extent practicable.
- The School will schedule meetings to enable families to share information about culture, background, children's talents and particular needs for the schools.
- The School will provide parents of limited English proficiency with access to English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to increase their English language proficiency to assist their children with homework.

**VIII. Miscellaneous**

The School shall ensure that all information related to School and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.



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The School will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as requested by parents.