



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

Widener Memorial **Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

School Year 2021-2022

Revision Date:

05/25/2021

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Widener Memorial 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).

Widener Memorial 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

Widener Memorial 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.

During the Spring Title I meeting, Parents will be invited to meet with staff and provide feedback to parental engagement activities and developing the parent and family engagement policy and school-parent compact.
On May 25, 2021, Mrs. McClain, Widener Counselor, met with Parents of Widener Students and with the school team to develop this year's Parental and Family Engagement Policy and the School Parent Compact. Parents also had the opportunity to discuss the existing budget and the 1% set-aside for parent involvement.
Throughout the year, the Home and School/SAC meeting enable parents to continue to review the policies. Parents will be notified of these meetings through the school calendar, email and on the website.

Section B: ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Widener Memorial 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.

Parents will be invited to the Annual Title I meeting which is held during the Back to School Night in September 2021. Parents will have the opportunity to learn about the Title I requirements, the budget, parent requirements and the parent policies. Information will also be given about parent rights under Title I, state academic content standards and assessments, working with educators and monitoring student progress.
During Home and School Meetings and School Council Meetings, parents will have the opportunity to continually review and assess the effectiveness of the current Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the School Parent Compact.

Section C: COMMUNICATIONS

Widener Memorial 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.

Meetings will be advertised in advance and held at various times to accommodate the largest possible parent participation using the various methods:
IEP Meeting Attendance
Home and School/SAC Agenda
Title I Parent Workshops
Teacher/Parent Contact Log (3X per year)
Report Card Conference attendance
Email Widener List Serv
Home visits are provided as needed with our School Counselor to inform parents of our school programming.
Communication from the school will be sent home in understandable, parent-friendly language and can be easily translated into multiple languages in coordination with the district office of translation services as needed or requested.

Section D: SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Widener Memorial 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 will have the opportunity to annually evaluate the school compact and revise as necessary based on feedback from parents, families, and staff. This will be completed during the spring meeting. This year, the parent input meeting was held on May 25, 2021.

Parent Survey data will be reviewed to possibly added the School Parent Compact.

Copies of the updated version will be shared with parents and families via the Parent Resource Table, school website, and Teachers Communication folder.

Section E: RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, Widener Memorial 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 Title I meeting, parents will have the opportunity to discuss the 1% parent involvement funds allotment. At this time, parents can make suggestions, discuss options, and provide input on ideas. This year, the Winter Title I meeting was held on January 27, 2021 & March 3, 2021.

The monthly SAC meetings will provide the opportunity to continue the discussion about the funding.

Section F: COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Widener Memorial 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:

Widener Memorial Therapist (Speech, Occupational, and Physical) visit pre-K programs at Easter Seals, Kencrest Centers, Blossoms Philadelphia, and Elwyn Pre-schools. Therapists conduct assessments of pre-K children as a means of determining eligibility for admittance to Widener. Parents of Preschool students become aware of the programs offered at Widener through these visits and assessments.

Section G: BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Widener Memorial 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
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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

The Annual Title I meeting is held each year during Back to School Night. It will be held again in Fall 2021. Parents will be informed about the State's academic content standards, student academic achievement standards, local academic assessments including alternate assessments, the requirements of Title I-Part A, and how to work with educators and monitor student progress. In addition, parents will have an opportunity to monitor their child's progress during Parent –Teacher Conferences, SAC Meetings, and through LEA's explanations during IEP meetings. Parents will be given timely information about Title I program through weekly communication folders, school newsletter and Home and School meetings.

Section H: BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Widener Memorial 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:

In the Fall, a professional development session will be given by the lead teacher, and/or a member of our home and school on educating teachers and other staff on how to reach out to and communicate with and work with parents as equal partners.

Results of the parent surveys will be shared with staff during this training.

Communications folders to parents from teachers will ensure parents are informed.

Availability to Counselors/LEA Representatives for mediation/communication

Attendance at District Wide Title I programs

Widener Memorial will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:

Entry level conferences/intake interviews with parents

Parent Handbook

Information flyer for parents with information regarding the Title I Parent Involvement Specialist

Emails sent to Widener List Serv

Annual Title I Meeting

Parent Workshops

Special Persons Day

Principal's Signature

Harris R. Gaffin

Date Signed

June 3, 2021