

Martin Luther King Jr., Elementary School
Parent and Family Engagement Policy
2020-2021

It is the belief of Martin Luther King Jr., Elementary School that by creating collaborative and meaningful relationships with our community it will allow our students to be successful in their academic endeavors. The goal of the administration, teachers and staff at MLK is to provide our students and families a welcoming atmosphere and the educational and emotional support that is needed to build and strengthen a lasting partnership with our community.

On October 13, 2020 the school will convene during an SOT meeting. Information will be shared pertaining to our Title 1 budget and parent policy. This information will also be shared to parents on October 14, 2020 through our School Class Dojo for parents to review. Martin Luther King's Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be distributed in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents will understand. The Title 1 plan, FY21 Annual Title 1 Parent Meeting Powerpoint, and Family Engagement Policy will also be made available to the community on the Martin Luther King, Jr. ES website.

The Educational Accords are integrated into the registration process through Infinite Campus. Parents must review Accords prior to completing their child's registration. The expectations and objectives of the accords will be reviewed with parents during conferences throughout the year, as well as at monthly Parent and Family Engagement Meetings.

Despite many reminders to parents to participate in the district wide Parent Survey via notes sent home, Parent link messages and surveys available to take at school during parent meetings, Martin Luther King, Jr. ES had a very low percentage of participation with the survey. We realize this is an area that needs improvement. We will brainstorm ways to better encourage parents to participate in this year's survey. Parents and staff have come up with offering incentives and providing times for survey during highly attended parent and community events.

According to the 2019-2020 district wide survey, parents reported that 100% of parents felt teachers care about their child; that 93.4% of parents feel welcomed at school and 93.4% of parents believe parents are involved in school activities. The results from the districtwide survey will be discussed at parent meetings throughout the year. We will be actively encouraging parents to complete the survey and make computers available on campus for those families who do not have access. Through monthly parent meetings and input received on parent involvement surveys, Martin Luther King, Jr. ES will involve parents in an organized, ongoing and timely way in the planning, review and improvement of Title I programs, our School Improvement Plan and Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

In order to build a strong partnership between parents and the school, the administration and staff will:

Provide assistance to parents, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the state's academic content and achievement standards, state and local assessments, the requirements of Title I, how to monitor their child's academic progress and how to work with school staff to improve the achievement of the school. This will be accomplished through monthly progress reports, parent/teacher conferences, and monthly Title I parent meetings.

Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment enabling students to meet the state academic standards. Parents will have the opportunity to learn more about this through events such as parent/teacher conferences, literacy and math nights and monthly parent meetings.

Provide monthly trainings to guide parents on how to assist their children in the areas of literacy, math, homework assistance, test taking tips and using technology as appropriate to student learning. Parents will be given informational handouts, reading material and sample math manipulatives to assist with the improvement of academic achievement.

Provide access to educational resources for parents to use together with their children. With the assistance of family engagement services organization groups such as FACES, administrators, teachers, pupil service personnel, and other staff will be educated bimonthly in:

- The value and utility of contributions of parents
- How to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners.
- Implementing and coordinating parent programs.
- Building ties between parents and the school.

Martin Luther King, Jr. ES will ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to parents in an understandable format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. Information will be sent via flyers, newsletters and/or Parent link, as well as posted on the school website.

The administration will to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with school and community resources (such as 3 Square, School Bell and various community sponsor organizations), prekindergarten programs and other community family activities that encourage and support parents in fully participating in the education of their child.

Martin Luther King, Jr. ES will provide reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request. This may occur through parent input offered during school events, monthly parent meetings and/or daily interactions with parents. All parental input will be reviewed by administration and staff and appropriately addressed as deemed necessary.

Circumstances regarding COVID-19 are fluid and social distancing protocols and other health and safety requirements are subject to change based on the advice of public

health officials, including the State's Chief Medical Officer. Therefore, as described in the Framework for a Safe, Efficient, and Equitable Return to School Buildings, our district and school have created reopening plans to address multiple potential reopening scenarios, including full-time distance education for all students, in-person instruction following social distancing protocols, and hybrid learning; in adherence with emergency directives, public health protocols, and NDE guidance throughout the 2020-21 school year.