

Maritime Academy Charter School Board Policy

Title I Parent and Family Engagement

Purpose

The Board of Maritime Academy Charter School recognizes that parent involvement contributes to the achievement of academic standards by students participating in Title I programs. The Board views the education of students as a cooperative effort among the school, parents, and community.

Guidelines and Expectations

An annual meeting of parents of participating Title I students shall be held to explain the goals and purposes of the Title I program, jointly develop a parent involvement policy, and review Title I parent complaint procedures. Parents shall be given the opportunity to participate in the design, development, operation and evaluation of the parent involvement program, including making spending decisions regarding the 1% of Title I Part A funds reserved for parent involvement. Parents are encouraged to work with their child's teachers to assist in the spending plans. Parents shall be encouraged to participate in planning activities, offer suggestions and ask questions regarding policies and programs.

In addition to the required annual meeting, additional parent meetings and training opportunities shall be held at various times of the day and evening. At these meetings, parents shall be provided:

- Information about Title I programs and parent involvement activities, including the State Parent Advisory Council Conference.
- Opportunities for training and information in areas related to literacy development, how parents can assist at home in the education of their child, how to use technology to support learning, and parenting skills. Parents are invited to participate in the training of teachers, pupil services personnel and principals in areas related to:
 - The value and utility of parent contributions
 - How to reach out to and communicate with parents
 - How to work with parents as equal partners
 - How to implement and coordinate parent programs
- A description and explanation of academic content standards, the curriculum in use, and the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
- Opportunities to submit parent comments about the program are encouraged to share ideas and recommendations to the Federal Programs Coordinator. This procedure will be shared with parents during each of the school's Title I Parent Nights. MACS will include parent comments to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) when filing the annual plan.
- If sufficient, Title I funding may be used to facilitate parent attendance at meetings through payment of transportation and child care costs.

- Opportunities shall be provided for parents to meet with the classroom and Title I teachers to discuss their child's progress and formulate suggestions, and participate as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children. During the annual Title I program evaluation, parents of Title I students assess the effectiveness of the program and offer recommendations to enhance program effectiveness.

Review of the Title I Parent Involvement Policy

Title I parents representing MACS will meet annually to review and comment on a written Title I Parent Involvement Policy and participate in an annual Title I evaluation. During the annual evaluation, parent feedback is gathered using surveys, face-to-face meetings, phone contacts, and website communication. Results from this evaluation will be used to make modifications, revisions, or enhancements to Title I parent involvement opportunities, policy, and programs.

Coordination with other Parent Involvement Activities

MACS will develop with the input of parents of Title I students a School-Parent Compact and Title I Parent Involvement Policy outlining the way parents, school staff and students share responsibility for improved student achievement in meeting academic standards. The compact shall:

- Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment, enabling students in the Title I program to meet the school's academic standards.
- Indicate the ways in which parents will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion and television watching; volunteering in the classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions related to their child's education and positive use of extracurricular time.
- Address the importance of parent-teacher communication on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum, parent-teacher conferences, frequent reports to parents and reasonable access to staff.

NOTE: THIS POLICY IS REVIEWED ANNUALLY.