



PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

The Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed upon by Maine Arts Academy Head of School, Title 1 staff, Title 1 Coordinator and Maine Arts Academy Parents, which includes parents of children participating in the Title I program.

Maine Arts Academy agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- Maine Arts Academy will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of Title I, Part A parents, consistent with section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, Maine Arts Academy will provide full opportunities 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 ESSA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- Consistent with section 1116, Maine Arts Academy will ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of ESSA section 1116 and include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with ESSA.

Maine Arts Academy will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents/guardians in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

- (A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
- (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- (C) that 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.*

DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE MAINE ARTS ACADEMY WILL IMPLEMENT PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. Maine Arts Academy will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its parental involvement plan under section 1116 of the ESSA:

- A Title I parent meeting will be held each fall. At this time the Title I staff and parents will work collaboratively to review/revise the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

and the School Parent Compact. At this meeting, parents will be asked to provide input and discuss any revisions to the School-Parent Compact and the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

- In addition to the parent meeting, an additional annual meeting will be held with those parents that volunteered to be a member of Maine Arts Academy Parent Group. The purpose of this meeting will be for the Title I staff, and parents to work collaboratively to review/revise the Parent and Family Involvement Policy and the School-Parent Compact.

2. Maine Arts Academy will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under ESSA:

- At the annual fall Title I parent meeting, Title I requirements and eligibility criteria will be explained by the Title I Staff. Opportunities for parents to formulate suggestions for school improvement will be provided and explored.

3. Maine Arts Academy will do the following in order to plan and implement effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

- Distribute to all parents a Needs Assessment/Parent Survey in the spring of each school year
- Hold an annual Title I parent meeting in November at which time parents will be offered a time to discuss their child's Title I program.
- Review results of the spring needs assessment/survey with changes made as necessary.
- Implement a "Technology Night" to provide all parents and families with information on NWEA assessments, Infinite Campus grading procedures and test preparation.
- Provide parents with information on accessing the Maine Arts Academy website
- Provide Title I parents with information regarding the Title I program and upcoming school events through Maine Arts Academy website, email and/ or regular mail.

4. At various times throughout the year the Title I staff will offer to meet with parents to discuss their child's Title I program and progress and to provide parents with information on ways to support their child at home.

5. Maine Arts Academy will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A school. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

The evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement.

6. A program evaluation form will be sent home to parents of Title I children in the spring of each year by the Title I Coordinator
- Results will be tabulated by the Title I Coordinator and reviewed by, the Title I Coordinator, Title I teacher, and the Maine Arts Academy Principal. Parent suggestions will then be shared at the Fall Title 1 Parent Meeting and be considered for programming revisions.

Maine Arts Academy will build the school's and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

1. Maine Arts Academy will provide assistance to parents of children served by the school's Title I program in understanding topics such as the following:

- The Maine Learning Results
- The requirements of Title 1 Part A,
- How to monitor their child's progress, and
- How to work with educators

2. Maine Arts Academy will take the following actions to meet the above goals:

- School Newsletters and the Maine Arts Academy website will provide information of area trainings that would be of benefit to parents
- Teachers will provide information about state and local assessments and how to monitor a child's progress during Open House held at the beginning of each school year as well as at the Title 1 parent fall meeting.
- Grade reports will be distributed quarterly
- Every parent will be provided online access to monitor their child's classroom grades. Meetings will be scheduled at a variety of times to accommodate parent schedules and/or requests – during school hours, before or after school, evening. Phone conferences will be held with those parents who are unable to attend.
- The Title 1 teacher will participate in parent/teacher conferences for individual students.
- Free materials provided by the US Department of Education on various education topics will be available to parents at Open House, conferences and upon the request of a parent.
- Title 1 parents will have an opportunity to volunteer in their child's classroom and for other school activities.
- Maine Arts Academy will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as using technology. Parents will be provided with Information Packets which include lists of appropriate educational websites.

3. Maine Arts Academy will, with the assistance of its parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

- Discussing parent-involvement activities at faculty meetings
- Participating in local parent involvement trainings when available
- Discussing parent surveys and suggestions at the spring Maine Arts Academy Parent Group meeting to improve communication between parents and teachers.

4. Maine Arts Academy will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent-programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating Title 1 children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

- The Title I staff will relate all information about Title I program, meetings, and other information to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format. Meeting notices will be sent out at least ten days prior to the event. Alternative forms, when requested, will be provided.

ADOPTION

Maine Arts Academy Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on by, parents of children attending MeAA including parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs. An opportunity to review this policy was provided to MeAA parents at November 2019 parent conferences and the Fall Title 1 Open House. This policy was adopted by the Maine Arts Academy and will be in effect for the 2019-20 school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children.

Lorraine Ravis
Title 1 Coordinator
December 10, 2019

*****NOTE for the 2020-2021 MeAA school year: This policy will be updated as input is received from parents and staff. Final adoption will be in November 2020.