

School-Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Promontory School of Expeditionary Learning recognizes the vital positive impact that parental involvement has on student achievement. The following Parent and Family Engagement Policy—created in consultation with parents, staff, and administration and approved by the governing board—sets forth the parameters and conditions for parental involvement in the educational programs at Promontory which are supported in part by Title I program funds.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

Promontory School builds a capacity for strong parental/familial engagement by communicating clearly and consistently with families. Communication is sent out about Promontory’s parent/family organization, Parents of Promontory (POP), volunteering in classrooms and on fieldwork, information about the annual Title I information meeting, other parent meetings, and additional information pertinent to parents and families.

Communication will be sent by the following means as appropriate: email, school website posts, social media posts, hard paper copies, and phone calls. Translated documents (available within 24 hours of request), and reading assistance are available upon request.

Teachers send notifications to parents concerning their student’s academic performance and need for extra help facilitated through the Title I program. Parents then will have the opportunity to accept or reject the extra help for their student.

ACCESS TO BOARD

Promontory School’s board will consist of at least two parents of children who currently attend the school as stated in the bylaws. This will give parents the opportunity to influence the management of the school. These meetings are open to the public and are well publicized. Parents, teachers, students and members of the community are encouraged to attend and give comment. Families will also be encouraged to email board members with comments if they desire.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

As vacancies become available on the governing board, nominations for the new board member will be accepted from parents.

PARENTS OF PROMONTORY (POP) VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION

Promontory’s parent/family organization, Parents of Promontory (POP), is made up of parents and will oversee the parent crews. They will assign parents to a parent crew and oversee the functioning of all parent crews.

Upon enrollment, each family will be assigned by our POP organization to a parent crew. These crews, made up of mostly parents, will be given the authority to accomplish important functions related to the mission of our school. Crews will consist of crews such as library crew, technology crew, fundraising crew, playground crew, etc. We cultivate our value of service and encourage parents to volunteer at least 30 hours per year to the school.

PARENT LIAISON

A parent will be nominated (by POP) each school year to be the Parent Liaison. This person will become a non-voting member of the Governing Board, and will attend Board meetings as a representative of parents of Promontory School students. The Parent Liaison will have the dual role of communicating to parent crews the needs and desires of the Governing Board, as well as being available to work with parents who wish their own concerns to be heard at Board meetings. While all parents are invited to attend open Board meetings, it can be helpful to parents to have an advocate sitting on the Board as well.

TITLE I-PARENT MEETINGS

The Annual Title I Parent Information Meeting is held during back-to-school night, or as scheduling allows. Information about Title I requirements and the parents' right to be involved in the school's academic programs is provided to all who attend.

Parents have opportunity to schedule time with administration to voice concerns, and to express ideas. Parents will be informed about planning, development, and review meetings and given opportunities to help develop and revise the parent and family engagement programs and policies.

Parents have the opportunity to schedule time with the administration and/or teachers to discuss their child's education when desired.

CONFERENCES AND CELEBRATIONS

Promontory School holds activities throughout the year that bring parents into the school to participate in their students' learning. Student-led Conferences are held each semester where parents listen and ask questions as their child presents his/her learning progress and goals. Accommodations will be made for an alternative conference date for those who have schedule conflicts.

Promontory also holds Celebrations of Learning events open to families and the public each semester. At these celebrations, students spotlight their high-quality work and final products to visitors.

THE COMPACT

The School-Student- Family Compact is a written agreement between the student, parents, and school outlining how each will share the responsibility to increase student academic achievement. It forms a framework for strong parent/family engagement and addresses the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis. The compact is distributed to all parents with annual online registration, which they are required to sign in acknowledgement of having read the document.

REVIEW OF PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

The Policy was created with the input of parents, staff, administration, and is approved by the governing board. It is evaluated at the end of each school year with a school-wide questionnaire which makes inquiries about the following possible difficulties parents may have:

- Barriers to parent and family involvement (especially families who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, of limited English or literacy proficiency, or of any racial or ethnic minority).
- Needs that parents and families have that may prevent them from helping with their children's learning and from engaging with school staff.
- Strategies to support successful family-school interactions.

A team including parents, staff, administration, and the governing board review questionnaire data. The team evaluates and makes changes to the Parent and Family Engagement Policy as needed.

TRAINING

With input from the parent organization and governing board, administration educates teachers and support staff during scheduled faculty and aide meetings.

These trainings cover:

- The value and usefulness of parent/family contributions
- How to communicate, work, and build ties with parents
- How to implement and coordinate parent programs

This educational information will also be communicated to employees, families, and the community through emails, newsletters, and social media posts.

CURRICULUM

Promontory School will provide additional materials and tools to parents about strategies they can use with their children to improve academic achievement. Specifically, the school uses an online reading development program the students can use at home to further develop their skills and help identify learning gaps.

Promontory School uses a math curriculum that parents/families can access from home via the internet to see the math lessons, homework, and tutorials. Additional materials and parent training is provided as needed and to the greatest extent possible through additional digital media, teacher/parent meetings, tutorials, and written information when requested.