



**Mound Street Academy
School Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

**SCHOOL YEAR: 2024-2025
Revision Date: September 11, 2024**

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Mound Street Academy receives Title I, Part A funds and 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 district.

Mound Street Academy 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 targeted assistance or schoolwide program plan.
- 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 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:*
 - *Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning,*
 - *Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school,*
 - *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, and*
 - *Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of ESSA.*

Required School Parent and Family Engagement Policy Components

The school parent and family engagement policy includes a description of how the school will implement or accomplish each of the following components:

- **Jointly Developed**

Mound Street Academy 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.

- *Holding monthly parental involvement events where parents will have the opportunity to meet and talk with school administrators.*
- *The school will maintain an “Open Door” policy where parents are welcome to talk with administrators or teachers at any time.*

- **Annual Title I Meeting**

Mound Street Academy 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.

- *The Annual Parent Title I Meeting will be held in conjunction with Mound Street’s Open House event on Wednesday, August 13, 2024, from 3:00-6:00 PM.*

- **Communications**

Mound Street Academy will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children the following:

- Timely information about the Title I programs,
- Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement, and
- 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.

Most of our communication with parents will be conducted primarily through ParentSquare. Parents, guardians and students are able to select the language of their choice to receive information through ParentSquare. Other platforms that will be utilized include our school web page, our school Facebook page and invitations or notices sent home with students or mailed to homes.

- **School-Parent Compact**

Mound Street Academy 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.

- *The Community Outreach Specialist will work with the Parent Ambassador, and any interested parents to update the School-Parent Compact. The update and review occurs in September.*

- **Reservation of Funds**

Mound Street Academy 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:

- *The Community Outreach Specialist will work with the Parent Advisory Council Representative, and any interested parents to decide what parent involvement events to hold during the school year and how to next spend the funds available.*

- **Coordination of Services**

Mound Street Academy 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:

- *The Community Outreach Specialist will keep parents informed about any other programs that could benefit students and families.*
- *Updates provided via ParentSquare, Facebook and website posts.*

- **Building Capacity of Parents**

Mound Street Academy 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:

- Provide 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;
- Provide 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; and
- Provide 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, and
 - How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child.

The Mound Street staff will provide Apex information for parents during Open House. We will also provide a list of academic websites to assist parents with learning at home. We also plan to provide information about food safety, nutrition and exercise to our parents on an ongoing basis throughout the school year. We will also utilize the survey feature in ParentSquare to get more feedback from parents as to what other things we can do to assist them.

- **Building Capacity of School Staff**

Mound Street Academy 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: Asking parents for input as to desired professional development for the Mound Street staff.

- *Restorative justice and de-escalation training to be held for the entire Mound Street staff during our staff professional development day, August 8, and will continue throughout the school year. The goal is to improve our interactions with students, parents and guardians.*
- *Parents are welcome to offer PD suggestions for staff at any time.*

Mound Street Academy will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by: Maintaining an Open Door policy granting parents access to faculty, staff and administration.

Building Capacity for Involvement

The School Parent and Family Engagement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school, in meaningful consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under Section 1116(e) of ESSA. Indicate which of the following discretionary (optional) parent and family engagement policy components the school will implement improve family-school partnerships:

- Involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.
- Provide necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds if the school has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training.
- Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parent and family engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
- Train parents to enhance the engagement of other parents.
- Maximize parent and family engagement and the participation in their child's education, arrange school meetings at a variety of times or conduct in-home conferences with teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children and parents who are unable to attend conferences at school.
- Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parent and family engagement
- Establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs.
- Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parent and family engagement activities.

Please refer to the Parent Involvement Action Plan for more information.

Tentative 2024-2025 Parental Involvement Events

August: Open House/Title Parent Meeting-Recruit Parent Representative, Tuesday, August 13
3:00-6:00

September: Convene interested parents to work on documents and events for the school year.

October: Parent-Teacher conferences October 24, 3:00 to 6:30; October 25, time TBD

November: 1st quarter award ceremony, November 1, 9:30

December: Cookie Decorating Contest, Wednesday, December 11, time TBD

January: Parent Conferences, January 16 evening; January 17 time TBD
2nd quarter award ceremony-January 24, 2025, 9:30

February: FAFSA Family Event-Day and time TBD

March: March 21, 3rd Quarter Awards, 9:30

April: With State Testing taking place in April, the 3rd quarter awards ceremony will serve as our
Parental Involvement Event for April

May: Senior Awards & Graduation: Day & time TBD
4th Quarter Awards May 16, 9:30