

# Parent and Family Engagement Policy



## Moreno Elementary School Parent and Family Engagement Policy ESSA Section 1116 2021-2022

1. Moreno Elementary shall jointly develop with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy, agreed on by such parents, that shall describe the means for carrying out the requirements of ESSA Section 1116 subsections (c) through (f). Parents shall be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. Such policy shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.

**Each spring, Parents and the Moreno community are invited to participate in meetings to review and improve our Parent and Family policy. It is shared with parents and the community at our annual State of the School / Open House. All parent meetings and materials are provided in both English and Spanish, and an interpreter will be provided if needed.**

2. Moreno Elementary shall convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under this part and to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved.

**The updated Parent and Family Policy is shared with all parents at the beginning of the school year, along with the Parent Compact and information regarding Title 1 guidelines. At least two meetings are held by the principal in order to accommodate parents. Notifications are sent out as fliers, callouts, on social media / website, and on the marquee.**

3. Moreno Elementary shall offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, childcare, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement.

**Moreno will offer meetings and activities for parents at flexible times. We regularly have them in the morning, after school, and in the evening. As safety permits, we also have activities during the school day. Title I funding can provide materials and activities for these meetings.**

4. Moreno Elementary shall involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under this part, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan under section 1114(b) (Campus Improvement Plan), except that if a school has in place a process for involving parents in the joint planning and design of the school's programs, the school may use that process, if such process includes an adequate representation of parents of participating children.

**Parents are included in the review and development of policies. Parents and business members serve as members of the CIT and participate in the CNA each spring. Additionally, Moreno has organized a PTA, and a large membership drive will occur in August in order to encourage more parents to be represented in the planning of Moreno's programs. Parents are always welcomed to visit the school or to provide feedback to the Principal.**

5. Moreno Elementary shall provide parents of participating children—
- (A) timely information about programs under this part;
  - (B) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and
  - (C) if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

**Curriculum and assessment information is provided to parents and families in two ways:**

- 1. Directly, through meetings with the Principal / Instructional Team / Teachers. These may include Pastries with the Principal, Front Porch Picnic / Open House, Parents as Teachers Trainings, or various other need-based trainings provided by our instructional team.**
- 2. Indirectly, through engaging and interactive activities planned for families. Parents are invited throughout the school year to participate in activities with their children. These may be related to academics or SEL, and always promote family engagement and student success. These may include Family Math Nights, Science Nights, Game Nights, Family Dances, Reading Fairs, Painting activities, Cooking activities, Fitness activities, Family Fridays in PE, Bring your Parent to School Day, etc. Additionally, we are creating a Family Resource Center in our school in order to welcome and support Family Engagement in learning on a daily basis.**

**Moreno Communicates with parents via school phone callouts, marquee, flyers, web site, social media, parent conferences, emails, phone calls, etc. The purpose is to create an environment of dialogue between home and school in order to improve student achievement.**

6. If the schoolwide program plan (Campus Improvement Plan, CIP) under section 1114(b) 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.

**The Moreno CIP is posted on our school website, housed in the Library, and presented to parents and the community every fall. If the parents have positive or negative comments, they should share them with the principal who will bring all feedback to the CIT.**

- (i) To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, Moreno Elementary shall: provide assistance to parents of children served by the school, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of this part, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.

**Resources are provided to parents through the Parent Resource Center, Monthly Newsletters, Parent-Teacher conferences, parent meetings, and parent trainings regarding state standards and how to help at home. Participation is ongoing. Additionally, Moreno has a Parent-Student-Teacher compact to outline the responsibilities of each participant.**

**We encourage all parents to join Parent Portal to monitor grades and progress on a regular basis. Teachers and the Instructional Team are here to help parents understand the TEKS (state curriculum), STAAR (state assessment), and how to help students succeed.**

- (ii) provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.

**Parents are encouraged to visit our Family Resource Center for materials and resources. We provide trainings on topics such as Technology, Schoology / Zoom, Virtual learning, Homework Help, TEKS resources, STAAR, Reading Fluency, Math concepts, Parenting Tips, SEL, English Language Proficiency, Learning Disabilities, etc.**

- (iii) 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.

**Teachers are trained each year regarding the importance of Parents as Partners, and the research that supports strong Family Engagement. Parent clubs are being developed at Moreno, to include interests and hobbies such as reading, crafts, games, cooking, gardening, DIY, English, etc. Parents will be invited to share expertise and skills with teachers and students in classrooms and at various other appropriate times. They may also be invited to lead activities at Family Nights. PTA was organized in 2020, and it is continuing to grow. Our goal is to have a thriving partnership between parents and teachers at Moreno. Parental input and feedback will be solicited throughout the year in meetings, through surveys, and during conferences.**

(iv) to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement 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.

**Moreno Elementary has used Title I Funds to purchase materials for our new Family Resource Center. This will provide a space full of parenting resources and activities for families to do together.**

**Our Parent Engagement Liaison coordinates monthly meetings for parents, including pertinent topics and activities. Our ALLs and instructional team will plan academic family nights in order to increase academic achievement for all.**

(v) provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request.

**Support will be planned for the following as needed: Language classes, access to computers, job listings, housing, community resources, etc. by request. Parents are encouraged to have an active voice at Moreno, and we will make every effort to meet all community needs.**

Although ESSA statute does not require the School Parent and Family Engagement Policy to be approved by the school board, the LEA may require Board adoption. Refer to your “policy on policies” and follow the more restrictive requirement.

If required... This policy was approved by Moreno *on 4/29/2021*

Signed by Authorized Official: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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