


## HOWARD GARDNER MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCE CHARTER SCHOOL

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|  | Students/Families                                      | SF18-0901  |
|   | Parent and Family Engagement Policy Schoolwide Title I | ADOPTED DATE: September 18, 2018<br><br>REVISED DATE: March 20, 2018,<br>October 19, 2021,<br>September 20, 2022,<br>June 20, 2023 |

The Howard Gardner Multiple Intelligence Charter School (HGMICS) embraces a philosophy that addresses the needs of the whole child as well as practicing current best-practices in education. Our school environment values students for their potential, not simply their accomplishments. And to that end, each child is given the time and resources to develop and demonstrate that potential. The philosophy is based on the concept of teamwork and partnership, where staff members, parents, students, and community members are able to join together in an effort to recognize that each of us has unique talents. Together we strive to make the school a safe place where we are able to share those ideas and talents in an effort to produce the best education possible. To ensure students receive the intervention and enrichment activities that will support their success, the school has a Schoolwide Title I Coordinator, Literacy Specialist, and STEM Specialist on staff to review schoolwide benchmark assessment results so that they can appropriately plan instruction for groups of students based on those results.

HGMICS recognizes the importance of a school-family partnership and open communication between the two parties in order to provide the best educational support for our students. Family involvement is considered an ongoing process that provides families a voice in decision making pertaining to the education of their child.

Therefore, in keeping with the guidelines of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), family members of students participating in Schoolwide Title I program and school staff will jointly participate in the development of a family involvement policy. The policy shall be implemented by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or designee and incorporated into the Schoolwide Title I Plan.

**1.** HGMICS will involve family members of the school community in the process of school review and improvement (*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(A)*).

- The school community is made aware of the school’s comprehensive planning process and the opportunity for input.
- The current approved Comprehensive plan is made available to the school community for review on the school’s website. Questions, comments, and suggestions made by the school community will be noted and brought to the attention of the Comprehensive Planning Committee.
- Goals achieved will be announced through Schoolwide communications.
- Families are informed in a timely manner of the school designation and will include input when developing a School Improvement Plan if such a plan is required by the division.
- The school community will have the opportunity to participate in an end-of-the-year survey.

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**2.** HGMICS will provide technical assistance and support in planning and implementing effective family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance (*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(A)*).

- Materials on how families can improve their child's achievement are distributed at monthly meetings of the Parent Forum.
- informational sessions held to aid families in navigation of our school student information system and Schoology platform.
- Parent-teacher open communication via email and/or phone conference or scheduled meetings
- WeeklyPod level communications emailed describing instructional program and curriculum.
- Bi-annual Parent-teacher conferences.
- MTSS Committee involvement when necessary.

**3.** HGMICS will coordinate and integrate family engagement strategies with other Federal, State, and local laws and programs (*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(A)*). The school will provide assistance to families of students in understanding topics such as:

- Information about the Schoolwide Title I program
- Timely notification to families that a student will benefit from intervention level supports
- Common-Core state standards.
- State (PSSA) and local assessments.
- Report cards and monitoring student progress.
- Working with your student's teacher to increase achievement.

**4.** HGMICS conducts, with meaningful involvement of family members, an annual evaluation of the content and the effectiveness of the family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools, including identifying:

- Barriers to greater participation by family members will be identified with particular attention to families who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. Information and reports will be provided to families in an understandable format, and, to the greatest extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- The needs of family members will be surveyed and assessed with regard to the level of assistance needed to effectively aid the learning of their children. School leadership, instructional staff, and student support staff will be engaged to address these needs.
- Administration will identify possible strategies to support successful school and family interactions.
- Identification of barriers to greater family participation will partially be determined through analysis of the family information forms and periodic family interviews/focus groups.  
(*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(D)(i-iii)*).

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5. The Howard Gardner Multiple Intelligence Charter School (HGMICS) will offer opportunities for the engagement of family members in the joint development of the Schoolwide Title I Comprehensive Plan (Title I Application) (*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(A)*).

- HGMICS will hold an annual meeting for all families, staff, and administration to review the procedure for the development of the Schoolwide Title I Consolidated Application. This meeting shall include a review of the previous year's plan, a projection for a future plan, discussion of how Title I funds allotted should be allocated, distribution of this policy, and suggestions for improvement and revisions in this policy.

6. HGMICS will use the findings of the annual evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective family involvement, and revise, if necessary, the Family Engagement Policy (*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(E)*).

- All families at HGMICS will have the opportunity to participate in and complete an end-of-year survey reviewing the family involvement activities. The results of the surveys will be discussed and used when planning activities for the following school year.

7. HGMICS involves family members in activities of the school, which may include establishing an advisory group comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of family members to adequately represent the needs of the population, including periodic outreach surveys. (*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(F)*).

- The school will provide families with education programming on an annual basis.