

HOWARD GARDNER MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCE CHARTER SCHOOL

	Students/Families	SF18-0901
	Parent and Family Engagement Policy Schoolwide Title I	ADOPTED DATE: September 18, 2018 REVISED DATE: March 20, 2018, October 19, 2021, September 20, 2022, June 20, 2023 September 16, 2025 September 15, 2026

The Howard Gardner Multiple Intelligence Charter School (HGMICS) is committed to educating the whole child through research-based instructional practices and a learning environment that values each student's unique strengths and potential. Our philosophy is rooted in collaboration among staff, families, students, and the community to provide a safe, supportive environment where every child has the opportunity to grow and succeed.

To support student achievement, HGMICS provides tiered intervention and enrichment through a schoolwide Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). School staff, including the Literacy Specialist and interventionists, use benchmark assessment data to identify student needs and provide appropriate instruction and intervention.

HGMICS recognizes that strong school-family partnerships are essential to student success. Family engagement is an ongoing process that values parents and caregivers as active partners in their child's education and provides meaningful opportunities for participation in school decision-making.

In accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Section 1116, HGMICS and the parents and families of participating students jointly develop and annually review this Parent and Family Engagement Policy. The policy is distributed annually in an understandable and uniform format, made available to the community, and updated as needed to reflect the changing needs of students, families, and the school. HGMICS is committed to meaningful parent and family involvement in the planning, implementation, review, and continuous improvement of its Schoolwide Title I program.

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.

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. HGMICS will also provide materials and training, as appropriate, including literacy training and training on the use of technology, including education about the harms of copyright piracy, to help parents and family members work with their children to improve achievement.
- Informational sessions held to aid families in navigation of our school student information system and Google Classroom platform.
- Parent-teacher open communication via email and/or phone conference or scheduled meetings.
- Weekly Pod-level communications emailed describing instructional program and curriculum.
- Biannual parent-teacher conferences.
- MTSS Parent involvement when necessary.
- With the assistance of parents and family members, HGMICS will educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, other school leaders, and other staff in the value and utility of parent and family contributions and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents and family members as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and family members and the school. (*ESSA, Section 1116(e)(3)*).
- HGMICS will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Title I as parents and family members may request. (*ESSA, Section 1116(e)(14)*).

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

- Timely information about the Schoolwide Title I program and the requirements of Title I.
- 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. (*ESSA, Section 1116(c)(4)(B)*).
- Timely notification to families that a student will benefit from intervention-level supports.
- The challenging State academic standards.
- State (PSSA) and local assessments.
- Report cards and monitoring student progress.
- Working with your student's teacher to increase achievement.
- If requested by parents or family members, HGMICS will provide opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and will respond to such suggestions as soon as practicably possible. (*ESSA, Section 1116(c)(4)(C)*).

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 be partially determined through analysis of the family information forms and periodic family interviews/focus groups. (*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(D)(i-iii).*)

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. The annual meeting will be held at a convenient time; all parents and family members of participating children will be invited and encouraged to attend, and HGMICS will inform them of the school's participation in Title I, explain Title I requirements, and explain their right to be involved. (*ESSA, Section 1116(c)(1).*)
- HGMICS will offer a flexible number of parent and family meetings, including meetings in the morning and/or evening. (*ESSA, Section 1116(c)(2).*)
- HGMICS will involve parents and family members in an organized, ongoing, and timely way in the planning, review, and improvement of the Title I program, including this Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the Schoolwide Title I Plan. (*ESSA, Section 1116(c)(3).*)

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.

8. HGMICS will jointly develop with parents and family members of participating children a school-parent compact describing how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share responsibility for improved student academic achievement and how the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the challenging State academic standards (*ESSA, Section 1116(d)*).

- The compact will describe HGMICS's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment and the ways parents will support their children's learning, volunteer in their child's classroom, participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to their children's education, and support positive use of extracurricular time.
- The compact will address ongoing communication between teachers and parents through, at a minimum, annual parent-teacher conferences at the elementary school level during which the compact is discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement; frequent reports to parents on their children's progress; reasonable access to staff; opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class and observe classroom activities; and regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff, to the extent practicable, in a language family members can understand.

9. HGMICS will ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is provided to parents and family members of participating children in an understandable format and, to the extent practicable, in a language they can understand. HGMICS will, to the extent practicable, provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members with limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children (*ESSA, Sections 1116(e)(5) and 1116(f)*).

10. If the Schoolwide Title I Plan or the LEA Title I plan is not satisfactory to parents and family members of participating children, HGMICS will include any parent comments with the applicable plan when the plan is submitted to the appropriate reviewing authority (*ESSA, Sections 1116(b)(4) and 1116(c)(5)*).