



## **School Parent and Family Engagement Policy School Year 2020-2021**

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **William Rainey Harper** receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a parent and family engagement policy (written or posted on school website), agreed on by such parents and family members, that shall describe the means of carrying out the requirements of The Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1116. Parents and family members shall be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents and family members can understand. Such policy shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of the parents, family members, and the school. The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parental and family engagement activities.

**William Rainey Harper** understands that parent and family engagement means the participation of parents and families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- Parents and families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- Parents and families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- Parents and families 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

**William Rainey Harper** agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by ESSA Section 1116:

### **A. ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING**

**William Rainey Harper** will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents and family members of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents' and family members requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent and family compact.

Considering ongoing concerns due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), during the 2020/2021 school year, each school in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District will

make the health and well-being of participants, staff, partners, and other guests a top priority. During the 2020/2021 school year, all meetings will be held in alignment with the Ohio Public Health Advisory System (OPHAS) as follows:

- Level 1 – Meetings can be held in person or not. Any meetings held in person will be done with strict adherence to health and safety guidelines ( handwashing, hand sanitizing, wearing masks and following social distance guidelines of at least 6ft), to ensure to the extent possible prevention of the spread of the virus.
- Level 2, 3, and 4 – All meetings will be held remotely and recorded to post on the schools website for viewing at a convenient time for all families, and staff.

*Click the following link for a full explanation of OPHAS levels:*

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/public-health-advisory-system/>

*The Ohio Public Health Advisory system has shown data for our county to indicate that we are at a level 2 within our county. Based on this current data we have decided to host our Annual Title I Part A meeting during our Open House on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 from 6pm-8pm via Zoom.*

#### **B. FLEXIBLE NUMBER OF MEETINGS**

**William Rainey Harper** will offer a flexible number of engagement meetings in accordance with the OPHAS level as outlined in Part A at convenient times for parents and families, such as meetings in the morning or evening (for which the school may use Title I funds to provide transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement (if the state’s current OPHAS Level is 1).

- *William Rainey Harper will host Monthly School Parent Organization meetings with families on the third Wednesday of each month at 3:00pm.*

#### **C. JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

**William Rainey Harper** will take the following actions to engage parents and families 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 schoolwide program plan.

*William Rainey Harper will engage parents and families by facilitating multiple family engagement events throughout the school year (in person or virtually). These events will be communicated with families in advance via our school website, social media pages, class DOJO messaging, and IVR system. Staff members will engage our PTO in identifying schoolwide needs and work collaboratively to implement family engagement programs.*

*William Rainey Harper will also invite parents to sit on the Schools Academic Achievement Plan Team so that they can provide input on the plans for Academic Goals, School Culture & Attendance.*

#### **D. COMMUNICATION**

**William Rainey Harper** will provide parents and families of participating children timely information about programs under Title I, including:

- a) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use,
- b) forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress,
- c) achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards, and
- d) if requested by parents and families, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicable possible.

Information related to the school and parent and family engagement programs, meetings, and other activities, will be provided to the parents and families of enrolled children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents and families can understand.

*List communication strategies and include information on ESL families if applicable*

*William Rainey Harper staff members will communicate information about programs under Title I, family engagement events and other meetings via our school website, social media pages (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), class DOJO messaging, IVR and emails. Staff members will ensure ESL families have access to translated documents and engage the Multilingual Multicultural Education Office to provide oral interpretation services as needed.*

#### **E. DISSENSION PROCESS**

**William Rainey Harper** will submit any comments/concerns to the CMSD Office of Family and Community Engagement if the schoolwide plan and/or parent and family engagement policy is not satisfactory to parents and family members.

*Any comments/concerns can be emailed to the Executive Director of Family and Community Engagement, Tracy Hill, at [tracy.hill@clevelandmetroschools.org](mailto:tracy.hill@clevelandmetroschools.org).*

#### **F. SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT**

**William Rainey Harper** will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents and family members of enrolled children a school-parent and family compact that outlines how parents, families, school, staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standard and how the plan is used, reviewed, and updated.

- *The School-Family Compact will be completed virtually in collaboration with the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Members. The document will be shared with teachers during Wednesday staff meetings so that it can be reviewed and updated as needed and a selected group of students will be able to review and provide input through their classroom teacher.*

## **G. BUILD CAPACITY OF PARENTS**

**William Rainey Harper** will build the parent and family capacity for strong family engagement to ensure effective engagement of parents and families and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

- Materials and training to help parents and families to work with their children 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
- Provide assistance to parents and families of enrolled children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
  - the State's academic content standards,
  - the State's student academic achievement 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 children.
- Educate school personnel, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents and families, in the value and utility of the contributions of parents and families, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents and families as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent and family programs, and build ties between parents, families, and the school.
- Coordinate and integrate parental and family engagement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as family resource centers and materials that encourage and support parents and families to fully participate in the education of their children.

### *List other activities*

- *William Rainey Harper's Say Yes Cleveland Family Support Specialist will coordinate with families regularly to identify barriers to academic success and to facilitate referrals for identified needs and resources.*

- *William Rainey Harper will actively update community resources on our school website and social media pages*
- *William Rainey Harper will host the following activities to provide the information listed above in this section:*
  - *Open House/Title I Meetings*
  - *Monthly PTO Meetings*
  - *Parent-Teacher Conferences*
  - *3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading Guarantee Parent Meeting*
  - *School wide academic virtual events*

**H. ACCESSIBILITY**

**William Rainey Harper** in carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of this part, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities, for the participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members with limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children), including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language such parents/caregivers understand.

*List actions*

This School Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents and families of children participating in Title I, Part A programs.

*State how policy was developed with SPO, PAC or other parent leaders and when*

This policy was adopted by the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and will be in effect for the period of (School Year). The school will distribute this policy to all parents and families of participating Title I, Part A children on or before **November 6, 2020**.

*Dr. Ajayi Monell*

*Pam McKenzie*

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*(Signature of Principal)*

*(Signature of Parent/Caregiver Leader)*

*10-23-20*

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