



**School Parent and Family Engagement Policy**  
**Barack H. Obama Elementary Magnet School of Technology**  
**2017-2018**

Revised September 18, 2017

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Barack H. Obama Elementary Magnet School of Technology** 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 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 local educational agency (LEA).

The **Barack H. Obama Elementary Magnet School of Technology** 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 schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- 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 the 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:

(A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning



- (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school
- (C) 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
- (D) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA

**DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

**JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

**Barack H. Obama Elementary Magnet School of Technology** 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.

Parents are encouraged to attend Pre-planning Parent Input sessions to review the Parent Involvement Policy, Parent-Student Compact, and 1% set aside, and make suggestions based on student needs and school improvement goals. Parents are also encouraged to participate in the school’s parent surveys and school meetings to provide input throughout the year.

**ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING**

**Barack H. Obama Elementary Magnet School of Technology** 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 school will hold the Annual Title I meeting on September 19, 2017. The meeting will be held at a time that is most likely to accommodate all stakeholders.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Barack H. Obama Elementary Magnet School of Technology** 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.
- 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,



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including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

We provide timely notices of Title I meetings, activities, and academic progress through the school website, SchoolConnect (Calling Post), conferences, and flyers. This allows parents time to adjust their schedules for meetings, and to be aware of their child’s performance at school. Class Dojo, Facebook, and the school marquee is provided as an additional means of communication with our stakeholders. Curriculum Night is held at the beginning of each year where administrators and teachers provide parents information about the curriculum, academic assessments used to measure student progress and testing data. Pre-planning Parent Input meetings are provided at multiple dates and times to parents and stakeholders to respond to any suggestions or ideas they may have related to the education of their child. This information is then used to develop the school parent policy, school-parent compact, and budget for the 1% Set Aside.

We encourage our parents to become full participating stakeholders in the decision-making process. This is accomplished through representation on the school council, School-wide planning committee, parent involvement committee, and membership in the PTA.

### SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

**Barack H. Obama Elementary Magnet School of Technology** 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 school will hold the Annual Title I meetings on September 19, 2017. Stakeholders will be involved in the decision making process with regard to Title I initiatives and funding, as well as, development of the school-parent compact. The meeting will be held at a time that is most likely to accommodate all stakeholders.

### RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, **Barack H. Obama Elementary Magnet School of Technology** 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:

Parents will serve as advisors as to how funds are spent. Parents will participate in the creation of the Title I Parental Involvement 1% Set Aside budget during the Pre-planning Parent Input Meetings and the Annual Title I meeting. Parent Liaisons and school staff will decide on appropriate materials for families, and participate in facilitating parent workshops.



### **COORDINATION OF SERVICES**

**Barack H. Obama Elementary Magnet School of Technology** 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:

A staff member will be designated to collaborate with feeder schools and selected agencies to support students and families. The school will provide parents and students support in transitioning to kindergarten by holding a Kindergarten Transition meeting in May 2018. Flyers will be sent to neighboring day care centers and Head Start. At this meeting, Head Start parents and Daycare Center parents will meet with current kindergarten teachers and receive information about kindergarten expectations, curriculum, and standards. Academic activities will be shared to be conducted at home. Parents will receive information on the Title I Family Engagement Centers and the available resources.

### **BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS**

**Barack H. Obama Elementary Magnet School of Technology** 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:

- Providing 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; and
- 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
- Providing 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
  - How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child

The school will provide increased parental involvement by participating in the actions listed below.

- Provide parent input stations (feedback forms – electronic and hard copy) at parent meetings throughout the school year.
- Share parent feedback on the school website, Class Dojo, and through handouts from surveys and parent input forms.
- Allow parents to volunteer their time for various school functions, school organizations, beautification projects, and other specified volunteer opportunities.
- The Title I Family Engagement Facilitators and school staff will offer workshops throughout the school year to further encourage parents' ability to support their child's achievement.



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**Barack H. Obama Elementary Magnet School of Technology** 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:

Staff meetings will double as professional development where staff members will discuss strategies and develop ideas to enhance communication, resource sharing, and enhance relationships with community stakeholders to increase student achievement. In addition, the Title I Family Engagement Facilitators will support the school by meeting with the Leadership Team to develop professional learning opportunities based on feedback from parent input to strengthen ties between home, school, and community.

**Barack H. Obama Elementary Magnet School of Technology** will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:

The school will provide materials and training to help families work with their child to improve their child's academic achievement such as –

- Offering parent workshops in math, literacy and technology throughout school year to provide parents with information and strategies to use with students at home. Support and training will be provided in implementing reading strategies and accessing educational websites at home.
- Scheduling individual and group sessions as requested by families on utilizing available technology to access information such as the Parent Portal to monitor their child's progress, websites to assist with learning and study guides for GA Milestones Assessment System (GMAS)
- Provide additional trainings as requested by families



**DISCRETIONARY SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**

**POLICY COMPONENTS**

- 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.
- Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parent and family engagement activities.

The school takes into consideration the time and resource constraints that our parents face. Parents are encouraged to conference with teachers at any time but because most of them work during school hours we will hold evening conferences during the school year. The school will develop and facilitate parent workshops focused on test-taking preparation and improving mathematical and literacy skills. Parent workshops are held on different days and times throughout the year based on the data we received on the parent surveys. The School will collaborate with community based organizations to share school communications as well as parent engagement workshops based on parent feedback. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to share ideas about developing and improving Title I, Part A programs held at the school. Many valuable partnerships have been made by the school with community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in order to participate in all parental involvement activities. These partnerships also serve to meet the needs of our Title I, Part A population that may arise throughout the school year.