

## School Parent and Family Engagement Policy

# George A. Whitten Elementary

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**School Year 2022 – 2023**

**August 1, 2022**

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, George A. Whitten Elementary School 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 George A. Whitten Elementary School agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- Involve 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 school improvement 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 families and the school, distribute it to the families 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 families with limited English proficiency, families with disabilities, and families 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 families understand.

- If the school improvement plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA is not satisfactory to the families of participating children, submit any family 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 families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:
    - (A) families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
    - (B) families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
    - (C) 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; and
    - (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**

George A. Whitten Elementary School will take the following actions to involve families 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 families, 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.

GWE families are invited to a series of brainstorming sessions with a team of other GWE shareholders, including faculty members, administration, and community members to establish, collaborate, and review the Family Engagement Policy.

### **ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING**

George A. Whitten Elementary School will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all families of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the families' requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

Families are invited to GWE's Annual Title I Meeting. This meeting occurs in the month of August of each school year. A *Powtoon* video is available for parents, staff, and other shareholders to access on GWE's Website and GWE's Facebook page. The *Powtoon* highlights the requirements GWE must adhere to, while sharing GWE schoolwide plan.

## COMMUNICATIONS

George A. Whitten Elementary School will take the following actions to provide families 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 families of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the families can understand:

Communication with parents regarding Title I programs will be distributed through various outlets including the use of informational flyers, use of social media, School Cast phone calls, school website, Zoom meetings and other online communication resources. Additionally, classroom newsletters, calendars, and school sign/marquee will provide information related to parent and family programs. Flyers and social media messages will be provided in a Spanish version to accommodate Hispanic population.

## SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

George A. Whitten Elementary School will take the following actions to jointly develop with families of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how families, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and families will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

GWE families are invited to a series of brainstorming sessions with a team of other GWE shareholders, including faculty members, administration, students, and community members to establish, collaborate, and review the School-Parent Compact.

## RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, George A. Whitten Elementary School will take the following actions to involve the families 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:

GWE will reserve one percent or more of our allocations for parent and family engagement activities. GWE will share with families the budget for parent and family engagement activities and programs in our Annual Meeting, as well as Title I newsletters. Additionally, families will be involved in providing input into how the funds are used through the use of surveys and shareholders meetings.

## **COORDINATION OF SERVICES**

George A. Whitten Elementary School 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 families in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

EL, Title I, and Special Ed collaborate to provide appropriate services for all GWE students. Additionally, multiple groups and organizations within the community supply our low-income families with weekly food bags, new shoes, free books, clean clothes (when needed), and various healthcare support. GWE has a Centerstone counselor who works directly with our students and their families throughout the year, including the summer months via Zoom/TeleHealth.

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF**

George A. Whitten Elementary School will provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of families, in the value and utility of contributions of families, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with families as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between families and the school by:

GWE faculty and staff will participate in job embedded trainings (in-person and/or Zoom), workshops, observations, and conferences to strengthen reading, writing, and math skills across all grade levels. Additionally, GWE's leaders provide on-going training and professional learning sessions to emphasize the impact of collaborating with parents and families to increase at-home learning opportunities, as well as parental participation in family events occurring at GWE or other school related functions. On-going PLCs provide teachers and staff an opportunity to communicate, plan, evaluate, and refine family events to better fit the individual needs of our student body and their families.

George A. Whitten Elementary School will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as families may request by:

GWE will host a minimum of four parent meetings (in-person and/or Zoom) throughout the year to provide families with resources to support student achievement and success. Parents are asked to complete a *Survey of Interest* each school year to better plan family nights and other school related events that are relevant to the needs of parents and other stakeholders. An Annual Meeting will take place during the beginning months of school to explain the school's participation in Title I, Part A Programs and explain the Title I, Part A requirements, the right of parents and families to be involved in those programs and share important documents.