

# **Martin Luther King, Jr. Early Childhood Center**

## **Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Early Childhood Center is committed to the goal of providing a nurturing school environment where excellence and academic readiness is evident in the actions of students, staff, and school leadership. Parents are valued partners in the educational process, serving as the child's teacher in the home. It is our goal to work with the parents and the community to promote the development of correct social skills, student achievement, and teacher excellence. Martin Luther King, Jr. Early Childhood Center's success can only be accomplished with the committed involvement of the parents, teachers, school leadership, and community members.

### **A. Our Parent Involvement Policy**

1. MLK holds three Parent Orientations in August to review Title I requirements, Parental Involvement Policy, an explanation of the curriculum, a review of the School Improvement Plans and the calendar for the school year with all parent activities, meeting dates and parent conferences.
2. Parents are invited to participate in a variety of meetings and activities throughout the school year. Meet and Greet Day is scheduled three days before the first day of school. Children and parents are able to meet the teacher and hear about social and academic expectations. Open House is held in within the first six weeks to provide parents the opportunity for visit the classroom and learn academic expectations. Monthly parent trainings are offered in the morning and evenings to highlight activities to improve children's literacy/math skills and conduct parenting classes. Our trainings are guided by parent and teacher input.

Parent conferences are scheduled each semester or as needed by the teacher or parent to discuss the child's progress. Teachers meet with parents before or after school and at their scheduled planning time to accommodate as many parents as possible.

3. MLK annually invites parents to review and discuss our School Improvement and Parental Involvement Policy. The PTO and SDMC review school policy in a timely manner. A PTO has been established in our school as a forum for parental input.
4. MLK and its teachers communicate with parents about the state curriculum and assessments. In addition, our school communicates expectations for student performance, evaluation of student work, and classroom activities and routines pertinent to the academic success of the students. MLK distributes information to parents through our Parent Handbook, monthly newsletters, school website, communication folders, conferences and parent meetings to ensure that parents are involved with student achievement.

### **B. Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement**

1. The education is the responsibility of the school, the teacher and the parent. MLK has developed a Parent/School Compact. This document serves as an agreement between the parent and the school and states what is expected of the school and

the parent. It is reviewed with the parents annually at the Parent Orientation in August. Our compact is used to motivate and encourage parents to become involved in the educational process and to let parents know they are our partners in education. In addition, parents receive a Progress Report as needed during the sixth week of the 12 Week Grading Cycle. Report cards are sent home every twelve weeks for all students.

### **C. Building Capacity for Involvement**

1. MLK will provide assistance to parents through parent meetings for an explanation of the states' curriculum, student achievement and the school's assessments. Parents will work with teachers to monitor the child's progress and improve achievement.
2. Our school will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve children's achievement through Family Literacy, Family Math and Family Science Nights. During parent meetings, parents will learn math and literacy activities to help their children at home.
3. MLK faculty is cognizant of educational research on parent involvement. Parents will give input throughout the year about their needs and concerns. Information from this will be used by the administration to strengthen the tie between school and home for the purpose of increasing student achievement.
4. Our school integrates parent involvement and activities with our families and the community. Parents are encouraged to volunteer and assist in the classroom and throughout the school. MLK collaborates with Neighborhood Centers, Inc. and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department. Parents are encouraged to participate throughout the school year in a variety of activities.
5. MLK has made it a practice to send home school correspondence in English and Spanish. This ensures that information about school and parent activities is received by everyone.

### **D. Full Opportunities for participation**

1. All students are an important part of our learning community regardless of language, mobility, or disability. Every parent is afforded the opportunity become involved with their child's school environment. Assistance is provided to any parent with a special need. This support comes by sending home forms/letters in the language of the parent, translations in school wide meetings, and providing interpreters for conferences as needed.

***Last revised August 2020***

