



Circles of Success Learning Academy Family Engagement Plan

Circles of Success Learning Academy (COSLA) recognizes that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and family during the entire time the child spends in school. To support the goal of the school to educate all students effectively, the school and parents must work as knowledgeable partners. Parents are an integral component of a school's ability to provide for the educational success of their children. The school endeavors to meet the diverse needs of parents and children. COSLA acknowledges that engaging parents is essential to improving student achievement and that schools should foster and support active parental involvement.

In response to this commitment to active parental involvement and in compliance with the legal requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, COSLA, with the assistance of parents, jointly developed, agreed on, implemented, and distributed to parents the following Family Engagement Policy. Parents are notified of the Family Engagement Policy Plan at the beginning of each academic school year in an understandable and uniform language and format. It is made available to the community via our school website and is updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school. Parents are informed of their rights to be involved in the plan and other parental involvement programs during the annual parent meeting. A flexible number of meetings (mornings and evenings) are offered throughout the year to ensure an adequate representation of parents are involved in an organized, ongoing, and timely way in planning, review, and improvement of COSLA's parental involvement policy and joint development of the schoolwide program plan.

These meetings/conferences are scheduled near mid-semester of each semester of the school year. The PTAB executive board has a meeting every third Wednesday followed by a PTAB parent meeting every third Thursday of the month. In those meetings, parents are not only kept abreast of the school's current activities, but as well, can give input and receive very valuable informative information. In conjunction, parents receive weekly newsletters, monthly calendars, and weekly and midway Nine Weeks progress reports. At the end of each school year parents that attend all parent-teacher conferences and serve five hours in a volunteer capacity will be acknowledged at the final awards program at the school. To the extent practicable, COSLA shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and

parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

In addition, COSLA will provide parents with timely information about all school programs under NCLB as well as a description of the curriculum COSLA uses, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet. The COSLA Family Engagement Policy includes programs and practices that build capacity for involvement and reflects the specific needs of students and their families. Assistance is provided to parents on the following topics, but not limited to:

1. Assistance in understanding the State's academic content standards, State student academic achievement standards, and State and local academic assessments. State of the School.
2. How to monitor your child's progress
3. How to work with educators to improve student achievement

COSLA ensures that materials and trainings will help parents work with their children to improve their achievement, and that all information related to school, parent programs, and other activities will be sent in an understandable language and format. Opportunities for regular meetings and other reasonable supports are arranged per parent's request to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and to respond to any such suggestions. In the event that the schoolwide program (TSIPP) is not satisfactory to parents after it is made available to the district/LEA, parents' comments/concerns are accepted on comment cards in the main office by the administrative assistant or via email from administrators.

The Family Engagement Policy involves parents of students of all grade levels in a variety of roles. Faculty and staff are educated each year with the assistance of parents in the value and contributions of parents, and in working with parents on how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with as equal partners for the coordination and implementation of parent programs, as well as build ties between parents and the school. Professional development is designed to enhance understanding of effective parental involvement strategies. Professional development for administrators offered by the District is required to enhance understanding of effective parental involvement strategies and the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation.

The PTAB also has a governing board, PTAB executive board, which consists of parents (selected by parents) and two COSLA staff members (selected by staff). This committee plans and implements the activities of the PTAB.

COSLA has established a Parent Center in the school, and it will be open Tuesday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. during the school year. The Parent Center is a program designed to encourage, enrich, and support parents in their efforts to be more involved in their child's education. In addition to learning materials for students, the center has learning materials for parents that will enhance and support parenting skills. A library of books and videos will be available for checkout by parents. Topics include positive discipline tips, teaching responsibility, setting limits, how to say "no", making time-out really work, bedtime problems, single parenting, blended families, homework without tears, strong-willed children, attention deficits, and many others. The Parent Center will be open to all parents who have children enrolled at COSLA. Parent input and questions are welcomed as the Parent Center strives to be of service to parents with concerns about their child's education and well-being.

COSLA will publish a volunteer resource book, listing the interests and availability of volunteers for school staff members' use. The resource book will help match school needs with volunteer interests. The resource book contains helpful hints, websites, and familial time activity ideas.

To encourage the parents to act as full partners in the decisions that affect their child and family, a school compact is drafted with the aid of parents that explains the role and expectation of the parents, students, and school. A signature from each is required to confirm understanding and participation.

COSLA will support the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of the program to involve parents in the decisions and practices of the school, using to the degree possible, the curriculum coordinator as a parent facilitator to organize meaningful training for staff and parents promoting and encouraging a welcoming atmosphere to parental involvement in the school. The parent facilitator also undertakes efforts to ensure that parental participation is recognized as an asset to the school.

It is the goal of COSLA to assure an ongoing partnership between families, the community, and school. We believe such a partnership is fundamental to the academic and social success of students. From this partnership a support will evolve that will have a positive effect on student achievement and will produce a sense of cooperative responsibility in ensuring excellence in the educational process. In accordance to the needs of COSLA, the following is a list of activities in which parents and/or volunteers can be involved in the educational process of our students:

Academic Conferences
Awards Day Celebrations
Family Pajama Reading Night
Parents Go Back to School (Curriculum Night)
Fall Festival
TCAP Information Meetings/Workshops
Memphis Public Schools Month Activities
Calendars (Yearly with main events, holidays...)
Character Education
Character Education Visitors
Service Learning Opportunities
Guest Speakers/Visitors
Holiday and Special Occasion Programs
Handbooks
Holiday & Special Occasion Celebrations
Classroom Representatives
Volunteer Memphis Tutors
Library Volunteers
Lunch/Breakfast with Child-Daily
Progress Reports
Various field trips
Teacher Email
News Releases (newspaper, radio, cable TV)
Open Parent Conferences-Available Daily
Parent Involvement Committee

PTAB Meetings
Teacher Learning Academy Opportunities
Partnership Week
Red Ribbon Week
School Choice Fair
Book Fair
TCAP Focused Tutoring
Holiday/Spring Musical
Food Drive
Fire Safety Week Visits
Muffins with Moms
Pizza with Pops
Parental Notification of Title I Read Along
Parent Center
Special Education Conferences
Parent Night (Open House)
Parent Visitation Day
Parent/Teacher Conferences
Private/Business Donations
Parent Involvement Contract
Mentors/Citizens of Community
On Campus Parent Coordinator
Use of Community to encourage reading
Classroom Volunteers-