

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY 2022-23

Philadelphia Hebrew Public Charter School (PHP) receives Title I funds in support of its schoolwide program. As part of this program, we are proud to have a Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy. This policy will be updated annually, with input from parents and students, distributed at parent meetings, shared on our website, and posted on family communication platforms. The policy describes the means for carrying out Title I Parent and Family Engagement Requirements [Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)].

Parent & Family Engagement in Philadelphia Hebrew Public's Schoolwide Program

- 1) PHP convenes at least an annual meeting to inform parents of Title I School wide program designation, requirements, and parent rights to be involved in the program.
 - a. The annual meeting is held in fall and/or spring. Parent Meetings are conducted via Zoom and/or in person.
 - b. PHP offers meetings multiple times to accommodate parent schedules. We also record meetings and share out through our schoolwide communication platforms.
- 2) The school involves parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's Title I programs and with the Title I Parent Involvement Policy.
 - a) PHP solicits input through our regular parent survey (fall and spring survey via ParentSquare), meetings, town halls, and workshops.
 - b) PHP launched Vaad Mishpacha (Family Committee) to support in organizing family events such as curriculum night. These families provide both formal and informal input into these programs and policies. Families who have volunteered to serve as leaders are also able to give additional input in the crafting of a School-Family Compact and the development and refinement of the school and comprehensive plans
 - c) PHP launched "Neighborhood Networks" to form groups of affinity by community in a school that builds community across lines of difference. . Engaging families through Neighborhood Networks aim to ensure a diversity of family voices shape our school policies and practices.
- 3) PHP provides regular and timely information to parents and families including on Title I, II and IV programs.
 - a. Families receive school-wide newsletters featuring important updates and inviting families to offer input, ask questions, or join various meetings and events.
 - b. Families also receive communications directly from teachers and via school-wide announcements on ParentSquare.
 - c. PHP uses ParentSquare to streamline communication and make it as accessible as possible. Families can sign up for their preferred mode of communication such as receiving phone calls, text messages, emails, or smartphone app alerts. Further, families can select their language to receive all communication translated into their preferred home language.

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- 4) PHP partners with families to review our curriculum, assessments, and student growth goals.
 - a. All families are invited to participate in an orientation in the first weeks of joining our school to provide an overview and make sure both students and families are set up for success. Detailed information is provided in our Student & Family Handbook as well as on our website.
 - b. Families have additional opportunities to understand the academic program and support their student in Back to School Night, quarterly Family Conferences, and through a series of family workshops focus on specific topics like English Language Arts, math, or Responsive Classroom.
 - c. Teachers frequently communicate progress and are available for questions through ParentSquare communication platforms, by phone, or by email.

- 5) PHP dedicates resources to parent and family engagement, including training of research-grounded strategies for leadership, staff, and family members, including:
 - a. Vaad Mishpacha (Family Committee). PHP launched the Vaad Mishpacha welcoming over 40 families to volunteer regularly to support student programming, field trips, family events, and building community. To support this work, one teacher and one staff member serve as Family Liaisons to support in organizing these efforts.
 - b. Summer Family Visits. As a diverse-by-design school, we have intentionally recruited students across difference from across the city. Accordingly, we have a responsibility to ensure that regardless of distance, all of our students and families feel a part of our growing community. Family visits can serve as a platform for information gathering and to engage and build positive relationships with families. When we build effective and authentic lines of communication with parents and make the effort to get to know them, we become more effective partners and educators for their children. That's why we are committed to visiting all registered families in the summer to get our school year off to a strong start. Teams of two staff members travel to a family's home or preferred community location to connect for 30 minutes, understand their hopes and dreams for their student, and share a welcome packet. Debrief notes are then compiled and shared with each student's teacher.
 - c. Neighborhood Networks. To build community and affinity within neighborhoods, PHP connects families living in the same or adjacent zip codes. We are proud to have 11 Neighborhood Networks across the city where families can form social connections and support systems in their PHP community.

- 6) Finally, PHP provides a host of additional meeting opportunities that are optional, requested by a family member, or by the school. Meetings include:
 - a. Special Education "shadow days" and family workshop evenings to learn how to best support learners.
 - b. IEP review and 504 planning meetings
 - c. Connections with the Dean of Culture and student support services team
 - d. Sessions with our Lead Social Worker
 - e. Opportunities to connect with school leadership including Head of School

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TO THE EXTENT THAT ANYTHING IN THIS POLICY COULD BE CONSTRUED TO CONFLICT WITH APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS, THE APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS CONTROL. THIS POLICY IS NOT INTENDED TO CONFLICT WITH CHARTER REQUIREMENTS.

ADOPTED this day 22 of September, 2022