Policy Checklist:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1z-rFQ4OYtYSdv5l7ZEiZ5G0R9GLSBvd8joSHdyC90BQ/edit?tab=t.0

Milwaukee Academy of Science (MAS) Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Plan

Created: 2017 – 2018 School Year

Latest Revision: 2026-2027 School Year

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Milwaukee Academy of Science 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(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Instruction.

The Milwaukee Academy of Science agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

• The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its academies with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.

• Consistent with Section 1116, the school district will work with its academies to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESEA.

• In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its academies will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, 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 LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district annually reviews the plan.

• The school district will be governed by the following definition of parental involvement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:

Parental involvement 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 ESEA

LEA PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The Milwaukee Academy of Science will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESEA:

The district and school policies are reviewed each school year and revised annually. Sources used in the development of these policies and plans include individual school meetings, workshop evaluations, annual parent survey results, parent committee meetings, Annual Stakeholder's meeting (including non-profit and corporate leaders), State of the School meeting and parent-teacher conferences. This policy and all school policies are posted on our school website where they are available for parent comments and suggestions. This policy is a working document subject to review and revision. The Family Engagement Policy and Plan was publicly reviewed at the January 2024 Annual Stakeholder's meeting and the October 2024 parent committee meeting.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

The Milwaukee Academy of Science will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. This evaluation will take place in the spring of the school year and is facilitated by a nationally recognized organization called Evidence Change. Results will be shared at the regularly scheduled Parent Committee meetings. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the

evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

Parents are surveyed annually to determine whether parent engagement needs are being met effectively and appropriately through the implementation of the parent and family engagement programs. Parents are given the option to complete the survey via paper copy and/or electronically. The Parent Engagement Coordinator is also available to assist with those needing additional assistance. The results of these surveys are used to develop strategies for school improvement and to revise the district and school Parent and Family Engagement Policies. These results are also used in planning future parent workshops and meetings. Areas evaluated include academics and school leadership, parent involvement, Title I, school environment, and the school Parent and Family Engagement Program.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The Milwaukee Academy of Science will involve the parents and family members 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 and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

At the June Parent Committee meeting the MAS Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator offers parent the opportunity to give feedback on the 1% reservation of funds by surveying parents on the use of funds. During the State of the School/Annual Title I meeting, the school will share the budget for parent and family engagement activities.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

The Milwaukee Academy of Science will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong parental involvement by providing materials and training on such topics that are age appropriate, specifically by academy to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. At minimum, these activities will occur at our annual Donuts for Dads, Muffins for Mom, Parent-Teacher conferences and the Community Resource Night. In addition, MAS sends out a monthly parent newsletter with tips and strategies for reading, math and science activities that increase parental engagement outside of school. Below is a list of topics that will be offered to parents. Parents will also have the ability to recommend topics at each event.

• Supporting your child's ELA and Math development

• The state and local academic assessments

• The requirements of Title I, Part A

• How to monitor their child's progress

• How to partner with educators

Milwaukee Academy of Science will give parents the opportunity to check out a wide variety of resource materials from the Parent Resource Centers to use at home with their children. Parent meetings and events will be scheduled and planned with topics specific to grade level and academy level.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

In our continued effort to create a Parent-Friendly school (one of three prongs of the MAS equity approach) the Milwaukee Academy of Science with the assistance of its administrators and parents, will educate its teachers, instructional support staff, principals, and other school leaders in the value and utility of contributions of parents. We will place emphasis on how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners and with awareness of cultural differences. School staff will implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school by:

• Sending home our monthly newsletters

• Constant communication through our internal communication app (Dojo)

• Scheduling parent/teacher conferences

• Making phone calls whenever issues arise

• Encouraging parents to serve as volunteers/tutors

• Attending conferences, seminars, workshops, and meetings with parents

• Serving together on school committees

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

Milwaukee Academy of Science will build capacity for involvement by committing additional

funds if the school has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding from Title 1,

Part A funds. The school will also offer various times accommodating parents' schedules to

ensure they are able to attend all events, in addition to establishing a districtwide parent

committee to provide advice on all matters related to parent involvement in Title 1, Part A programs.

MAS, using the following tools promises to implement effective parent and family engagement practices: regular family engagement meetings; school-parent compacts; capacity building of parent/families and staff; and regular, two-way meaningful communication between families and schools.

MAS has found the following to be effective in improving parent and family engagement:

1. Create a welcoming school climate.

2. Provide families information related to child development and creating supportive learning environments.
3. Establish effective school-to-home and home-to-school communication
4. Strengthen families' knowledge and skills to support and extend their children's learning at home and in the community.
5. Engage families in school planning, leadership and meaningful volunteer opportunities.
6. Connect students and families to community resources that strengthen and support students' learning and well-being
7. Include parents in the interview process for academic leader positions.

TITLE I ANNUAL MEETING

Each year Milwaukee Academy of Science offers a Annual Stakeholders Meeting that informs parents (and other stakeholders) of what a Title 1 school is, how to participate in the planning and evaluation process, and how the Title 1 funds are used.

ADOPTION

This LEA parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs., as evidenced by this document and the sign-in sheet.

This policy was adopted by the Milwaukee Academy of Science on 11/03/2026 and was last revised for the 2026-2027 school year. The policy is posted on the school's website.