



Garehime Elementary School 2017-2018 Parent and Family Engagement Policy

This policy has been jointly developed and agreed upon by the Edith Garehime Elementary School staff and parents of students served in the school pursuant to Title I. Garehime Heights Citizens Club (GHCC), the parent organization at Garehime E.S, planned and held annual meetings at school throughout the year. Garehime E.S. Principal was a key presenter in these meetings. During the September 2017 meetings, GHCC held two meetings to revise and evaluate the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Notifications and Parent Link were used to invite parents to provide an opportunity for every parent to attend and participate in these meetings and to evaluate the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Throughout the school year, the Garehime E.S. website has offered information about parent involvement and events so every parent could be informed about parent involvement events, and decisions. The minutes of the meetings and the Parent and Family Engagement Policy were available through the school website. Garehime E.S. sent, and will continue to send Parent Link messages to all parents, families, and community members to attend and participate in these meetings. Garehime E.S. also made Parent Link telephone calls, text messages, and e-mails to invite parents to parent involvement meetings. Edith Garehime E.S. and the GHCC will continue to convene, and will evaluate this policy annually, during its September meetings.

Garehime E.S. has been, and will continue to inform parents, families, legal guardians, and the community about activities, programs, trainings and events, as well as dates, times and locations, as they are determined throughout the school year. This information will be communicated using the following means: DOJO, e-mails, school website, the school Facebook page, Parent Link, school and teachers newsletters and letters, and during school monthly SOT and GHCC meetings. Garehime E.S. Parent and Family Engagement Policy follows the terms of CCSD memos, regulations, and policies.

The school's Parent and Family Engagement Policy, developed by staff and parents, has been and will continue to be distributed in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent, practicable, in a language parents can understand. Parents communicate with Garehime E.S. staff anytime that they need additional support to enable their involvement during the GHCC meetings. Parents can talk directly with the Principal at any time. The Principal practices an open-door policy, and many parents talk to him on a daily basis. The principal is always available to parents and community members. The 2016-2017 Parent Survey indicated the importance that parents placed in maintaining not only high academic standards, but a school culture that revolves around school-community events and traditions. Garehime E.S. is committed to maintain high academic expectations, events, and tradition to keep a strong school-community culture. The District Survey of 2017 indicates that 95 percent of parents who responded are happy with the school and feel

the school is a safe place. Our goal is to maintain this confidence that parents have in Garehime Elementary School.

Events at Garehime include the “Going to Town Night”, where every year the community participates in the “model city”, an experience at school aligned with the school slogan, “We are in Business.” Parent involvement has been strong and high in parent participation at Garehime E.S. The GHCC has been working and will continue to work together with Garehime E.S. to maintain and increase the number of parents and families involved in school events. Garehime E.S. and GHCC will continue to invite parents and the community to parent involvement meetings through Newsletters, Parent Link messages. Garehime E.S. will start using social media, the Garehime E.S. Facebook page, as a new action to maintain and increase parent participation.

Edith Garehime E.S. involved parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, reviewing, and improving of Title I programs, School Performance Plan (SPP), and the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Through its School Organizational Team (SOT), Garehime E.S. discussed its SPP with the SOT, and this information is accessible to all the community through the school website. An example of how SPP decisions are made with parents’ collaboration, was the decision to hire two Certified Temporary Tutors (CTT) to improve student reading and math vocabulary skills, which will improve student performance. Another example was to approve the buying of MAP assessment tool (for fourth and fifth grades) to measure summative student academic growth, and to identify areas of concern so that teachers could modify their instruction based on students’ needs. Garehime E.S. uses MAP K-5.

During the month of September of 2017, Teachers held, and will continue to hold, two parent meetings, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Teachers and the Principal explained to parents the academic status of the school and their grade levels, and the school expectations, in alignment with the SPP. During these meetings, the principal and teachers explained to the parents the students’ achievement data in comparison with state standards. The minutes of these meeting are available upon parent request to the GHCC, teachers, or at the front office.

Garehime E.S. offered and will continue to offer parents trainings that are aligned with the SPP. Teachers trained parents, and held a rotation of parents who worked, under teacher’s supervision, with students, on identified skills. All materials were provided by Garehime E.S.

The Educational Involvement Accords are integrated into the registration process through Infinite Campus (I.C.). Parents must review Accords prior to completing their child’s registration. Administrators and teachers have access to the Accords and review it with parents whenever needed for parent/student conferences or other occasions.

The goal of Garehime E.S. Parent and Family Engagement Policy is to successfully address the above mentioned parent concerns and actions, aimed to increase parent involvement and student achievement. The following paragraphs synthesize the actions and roles that Garehime E.S. is committed to follow to

support its parent involvement policy.

A. Administration and staff:

- Provide assistance to parents, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the state's academic content and achievement standards, state and local assessments, the requirements of Title I, how to monitor their student's academic progress, and how to work with school staff to improve the achievement of the student.
- Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment enabling students to meet the state academic standards.
- Offer activities in the school that include opportunities for parents to volunteer and be involved in school activities:
 - Staff development and parent education
 - Provide home support for parents for their children's education
 - Parents participate in school decision-making
 - Effective communication between the school and parents
- The school provides materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve the student's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement. We also provide access to educational resources for parents to use together with their children through GHCC meetings.

B. The administration, with the assistance of parents, educate teachers, pupil service personnel, principals, and other staff in:

- The value and utility of contributions of parents
- How to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners
- Implementing and coordinating parent programs
- Building ties between parents and the school

C. Ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to parents in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

- Use every communication means to inform parents of activities, decisions, and events

D. Coordination with other programs and the administration:

- To the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family

engagement programs and activities with Head Start and Pre-kindergarten, and conduct other activities such as parent resource centers that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

E. Provide reasonable support for parental and family engagement activities as parents may request, (i.e., child care during meetings, parent comment or suggestion sheets).

- Administration facilitates accommodations and materials for parents with children during all kind of meetings. It is Garehime E.S. belief that by doing so, parent engagement will increase.

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