

2022-2023 Parent and Family Engagement Policy (PFEP)

Garehime's Mission Statement:

The citizens of Garehime Heights are committed to maximizing student achievement by doing their personal best so that students become responsible, contributing members of society.

At Garehime Elementary School, we believe that parent involvement is a vital component of the educational process. We value parents and recognize the significant role they play in their child's success at school. We strive to create a welcoming school environment where parents are encouraged to attend school functions and volunteer in classrooms to better support their child's educational goals. We see ourselves as a collaborative community working as a team to benefit all students.

The initial meeting to discuss the Parent and Family Engagement Policy for the 2022-2023 school year was held on November 21, 2022, during Garehime's monthly SOT meeting. The agenda and minutes are available on the school website. The team evaluated barriers to parent participation and used these findings to design strategies for more effective parent involvement. Parents will be able to access all information regarding our Title I meetings via the school website to accommodate anyone who does not have the ability to attend the meetings. We also revisit information from previous months in order to update anyone who may have missed the information previously.

During School Organization Team (SOT) meetings and parent-teacher conferences, teachers and administration will involve parents in creating the school performance plan/continuous improvement plan by inviting interested parents to meet virtually/in person with Garehime staff to discuss student achievement data, identify priority concerns, determine goals, etc. Parents are informed about our progress regarding the School Performance Plan (SPP)/Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP), and their feedback and input are encouraged. Parents can contact the administration about any questions and/or concerns related to their child's education. Parents can make appointments to meet with the administration virtually/in person by contacting the office.

Results of the District Wide Survey specific to Garehime were reviewed and discussed to revise our parent and family engagement policies. Once reviewed, the policy will be distributed in an understandable format, and to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand via our school website. According to the District Wide Survey, Garehime parents felt welcome at our school and believed the teachers cared about their children. Positive behavioral interventions and supports help engender emotionally safe environments, where respect is encouraged and students are intentionally taught pro-social skills through our life skills and lifelong guidelines approach. To increase participation in the District Survey, there will be a popup link that appears each time a family enters the school website. There will also be computers available in the front office for parents to complete the survey.

The Administration and staff, as appropriate, will:

- Provide assistance to parents in understanding the NVACS, state and local assessments, the requirements of Title I, how to monitor their child's academic progress, and how to work with school staff to improve their child's academics through monthly SOT meetings, family nights, and parent/teacher conferences.
- Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction through supportive and effective instruction enabling students to meet the state academic standards.
- Provide opportunities for parents to participate in school decision-making.
- Maintain effective communication between the school and parents.
- Facilitate family data nights, hold parent/teacher conferences, and send home MAP Family reports to help parents and families interpret and understand achievement data relative to state standards

-- Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful: Effective communication requires school-initiated contact with the parent and parent-initiated contact with the school where both parties provide vital information about a child's strengths, challenges, and accomplishments. To effectively communicate, both parties must be aware of issues such as cultural diversity and language differences and appropriate steps must be taken to allow clear communication for all participants. All teachers and staff are using a common communication platform, Class Dojo, to relay daily messages. Class Dojo can be translated into other languages for effective communication. There are also translators on campus in the event families need help with conversations relating to their child's needs.

-- Responsible parenting is promoted and supported: The family plays a primary role in a child's education and schools must respect and honor traditions and activities unique to a community's cultural practices and beliefs. Parents are linked to programs and resources within the community that provide support services (Care Solace, The Harbor, Hazel Health) to families through the assistance of the School Counselor.

--The school is open and inviting to parents and families: Parents are welcome in the school and their support and assistance are sought. Capitalizing on the expertise and skills of parents strengthens the family, school, and community partnerships. This year, our goal is to increase parent participation in parent meetings, and to increase communication and participation with parents. Please visit this link: <https://ccsd.net/community/protect-our-kids/> for information on how to become a volunteer on our school campus.

-- Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families: Parents and educators have a joint responsibility to make informed decisions related to all aspects of the education provided to Nevada's youth. The role of parents in shared decision-making should be continually evaluated, refined, and expanded. This will be completed through the regular opportunity to share their thoughts about the school's delivery of services during open forums.

--Parents will be encouraged to participate in periodic community surveys to provide feedback in order to determine what the needs of the community are, and what initiatives we should fund. Surveys will also be included virtually after each parent meeting and family night. They will be made available to parents. All feedback is read, and any questions or concerns will be addressed in a timely manner by the administrator.

-- Parents will be provided with strategies tied directly to Nevada Academic Content Standards identified as critical based on school-wide data from Eureka Math, MAP, and AIMS Web in the form of prep guides, flashcards, and videos. These strategies will be easy to use in the home setting and enable parents to participate in improving student performance.

Timeline for sending home the Educational Involvement Accord

- The Educational Involvement Accord is integrated into the registration process through Infinite Campus. Parents must review the Accord prior to completing their child's registration. Administrators and teachers will have access to the Accord whenever needed for parent/student conferences or other occasions. The teachers utilize the Accord at Parent Teacher Conferences and throughout the school year with the students, to increase parent involvement in the classroom.

The Administration will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with community outreach throughout the school year. Community resources are made available to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning: The school and parents will cultivate relationships with additional members of the community in order to promote and effectively increase educational opportunities for children. Together, parents, educators, and community members will join efforts toward identifying and promoting community resources and innovative programs [i.e. Lifelong Guidelines, for strengthening schools, families, and student learning. There are a variety of school partnerships at Garehime. The YMCA provides after-school sports for all students, and after-school tutoring for grades K-2. The Good News Club and Spanish Club are also part of our school's community partnership. Communication for these organizations is sent home via fliers, Google Forms, emails, and Class Dojo.

Our goal as a school is to provide parents and students with access. Access to quality education, access to resources, access to necessary technology, and access to a strong partnership with the school and community.