**FAMILY AND SCHOOL COMMUNICATION POLICY**

**1. Overview**

Old Main STREAM Academy (OMSA) is committed to family and school communication for all students' families, and to providing safe and orderly learning and working environments.  Therefore, the Board encourages family and school communication to support OMSA and the educational program of OMSA.

**2. Purpose**

For the purposes of this policy, the term “family and school communication” means the participation of parents, guardians, and other family members in regular, two-way and meaningful communication involving student learning and other school activities, including ensuring the following:

1. that parents and family members play a vital role in supporting their child’s learning;

2. that parents and family members are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;

3. that parents are full partners in their child’s education and parents and family members are included, as appropriate, in decision making to assist in the education of their child; and

4. that the school uses events to support parent and family engagement in the Title I program.

**3. Scope**

The Title I program is a federally supported program that offers assistance to educationally and economically disadvantaged children to help ensure they receive an equitable, high-quality, well-rounded education and meet the schools challenging academic standards. The Title I program delivers instructional activities and supportive services to eligible students over and above those provided by the regular school program.

Each year, school officials must invite parents to a meeting to explain parental rights, discuss the programs and activities to be provided with Title I funds, and solicit input on the Title I program and this policy. In addition, school officials must provide parents and family members a meaningful opportunity annually to evaluate the content and effectiveness of the Title I program and the parent and family engagement policies and plans. Information collected from these proceedings will be used to revise Title I programs and family and school communication plans. OMSA will hold an informational meeting in August and will notify via email, telephone communication, and social media.

**4. Policy**

The Board of Directors believe that the involvement of parents and family members in the design and implementation of the Title I program will increase the effectiveness of the program and contribute significantly to the success of the children. The Title I staff, and all school personnel shall strive to conduct outreach to parents and family members and involve them in activities throughout the school year.

School leadership shall ensure that this family and school communication policy and plan is developed with, agreed upon and annually distributed to parents and family members of participating students.

In addition, school officials and Title I school personnel shall do the following:

1. Involve parents and family members in the joint development of the Title I program and school support and improvement plan and the process of school review and improvement by including parents on the school advisory committee and any committees that review the Title I program;
2. Provide coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity in planning and implementing effective family and school communication that are designed to improve student academic achievement and school performance;
3. Coordinate and integrate family and school communication strategies in the Title I program to the extent feasible and appropriate with parental engagement strategies established in other federal, state, and local laws and programs;
4. With the meaning full involvement of parents, conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the school family and school communication policy and program in improving the academic quality of the school and assisting students to meet the school’s academic standards. This evaluation shall identify the following:
   * 1. barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by this section (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy or are of any racial or ethnic minority background);
     2. the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers, and;
     3. strategies to support successful school and family interactions.

The school will use these findings to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and revise, if necessary, the family and school communication policy.

By holding quarterly meetings with stakeholders

**5. Enforcement**

It shall be the responsibility of the OMSA School Principal and Board of Directors to administer this policy for OMSA.

**6. Distribution**

This policy is available to all Old Main STREAM Academy staff and the general public on the Old Main STREAM Academy website.

**7. Policy Version History**

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| Version | Date | Description | Approved By |
| 1.0 | 3/11/2021 | Initial Policy Adopted | OMSA Board |