

**The Houston Independent School District  
Title I, Part A**



**Parental and Family Engagement Policy for Mount Carmel Academy**

Maureen Giacchino, Principal  
Jacqueline Onochie, Title 1 Coordinator

*Mount Carmel Academy, and the parents of the students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education ACT (ESEA), agree that this compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility of for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the State's high standards.*

*This school-parent compact is in effect during the school year 2017-2018.*

**Statement of Purpose**—The Houston Independent School District (HISD) is committed to ensuring the highest quality education for all students in the District. Because students from birth to high school graduation spend only 15% of their time at school and 85% of their time at home or other places, HISD recognizes that parents are valued partners in the educational process. For students to be successful, their parents or guardians must be actively involved in their education. Mount Carmel Academy developed this policy to describe how we involve parents in the development of policy and the School-Parent Compact. Our purpose is to help parents to help their children achieve in school while preparing for further educational opportunities. This policy was developed with the assistance and approval of the parents of children participating in the Title I program as well as Maureen Giacchino, Principal, Jacqueline Onochie, Title I Coordinator, and the surrounding community.

**Parental Engagement in Policy Development**— A Parent Advisory Council consisting of parents, Title I Coordinator/Contact person, administrators, members of the community and other district-wide staff meet each year to update the school's District Parental Involvement Policy. We invite parents of all children who participate in the Title I program to a series of meetings. Meetings are held on several different days and times, and parents have a choice which to attend. At the meetings we discuss Title I laws, its requirements and the rights and benefits to parents of children involved. We explain how parents can be involved in the planning, review and improvement of Title I programs including contributing to this parental involvement policy. Our goal is to have parents play a vital role in decision making regarding the Title I program in our school.

**Capacity Building Activities**—Capacity building activities are provided to increase student achievement through district-wide and campus efforts. Teachers will participate in content appropriate professional development opportunities which will enable them to use the most up-to-date learning interventions and ideas to reach students.

**Annual Meeting for Title I, Part A Parents**—Information about Title I, Part A guidelines is distributed at the annual meetings. Parents are given copies of the current Parental Engagement Policy and offered a chance to become involved in revising the policy as needed. Volunteers may serve on the individual school Advisory Council (Parent's Club). Translation is always provided so that all parents are able to understand and participate.

**Parent Meetings and Involvement**—Presentations are done to inform parents of their child's academic progress. It is explained how parents can work as partners with the teachers to assist the students and how to be involved in decision-making regarding the education of their children. Materials and training are provided to facilitate parents to help their children.

The faculty and staff of Mount Carmel Academy understand the importance of communication. Student success is dependent upon three components: communication, cooperation, and support for students by the partnership between parents and school faculty.

Training is also given to teachers and other staff members. School staff is taught the importance of involving parents, parents as partners, programs for parents, and building ties between home and school.

Our school strives to coordinate parental involvement activities among the different programs available on our campus.

**School-Parent Compact**—According to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001(NCLB), each school must share responsibility with parents for high academic performance by developing a school-parent-student compact jointly with the parents. This compact outlines how parents, staff, and students share the accountability for improved academic achievement.

**Accessibility and Evaluation**—Participation and involvement of all parents are of utmost importance. Information related to student achievement, school performance, school and parent programs, meetings and other opportunities for participation are sent home every three weeks.

A district-wide Title I, Part A Advisory Council is involved in the process of school review and improvement. The goal is to evaluate the schools in the district by collecting information in a variety of ways, including parent surveys, program evaluation, and the school's report card.

Mount Carmel Academy is committed to ensure that all parents are partners in the Title I, Part A goals. "Parents as Partners" is one of the HISD Core Values and it is supported by the Title I, Part A Parental Engagement Program.