Discovery STEM ACADEMY

Family & Community Engagement Policy 2023-2024

INFORM Nurture CULTIVATE FOSTER Empower Embrace Inspire PROMOTE Engage

What is Family and Community Engagement?

There are three influences in a student's life: family, school, and community.

When there is an effective partnership among family, school, and community, every student succeeds.

Core Beliefs

- Welcoming all Families
- Supporting Student Success
- Speaking Up for Every Child
- Sharing Leadership
- Strengthening Families

NEWPORT NEWS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

After you have read the Family and Community Engagement Policy please open the below link or use the QR Code to share your input or comments. Thank you!

https://forms.gle/LUbwARru3xAPVFn9A

Newport News Public Schools encourages all families to provide input and feedback on the Family and Community Engagement Policy. This policy includes contributions collected from stakeholders that participated in various experiences. **This policy was last updated and adopted August 2023.**

NNPS Family and Community Engagement SPECIALISTS

WHAT IS TITLE I PART A?

Title I Part A provides federal funding to Newport News Public Schools from Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ESSA allots money to states and school districts to meet the needs of educationally at-risk students. Title I funds must be used in schools with the highest concentration of students from low income families. Title I reach about six million students in public and private schools throughout the United States. The school district will put into effect programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of families in its schools, consistent with section 1116 of the (ESSA) Title I Part A programs. Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful discussions with families of participating children.

Family Engagement Requirements for a Title I School

Each district that receives Title I Part A funds must develop a written Family Engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations for parental involvement. The district policy must be developed jointly with, and agreed upon with, the parents of children participating in Title I Part A programs and distributed to parents of all children participating. In order to fulfill the Title I Part A family engagement requirements the school will provide opportunities for participation of families with limited English proficiency, disabilities, and displaced groups, and information in a uniform format and alternative formats. In addition, all written communication will be provided in English and Spanish. Additional languages and modalities of communication will be provided to the extent practicable based on need.

The district will involve families of children served in Title I Part A schools in decisions about how funds are used. Approximately 30% of NNPS Title I funding goes to its preschool program. Title I Schools Funds also provides the following:

- Family & Community Engagement Specialists
- Intervention for students
- Instruction by properly licensed and endorsed teachers (ex. reading/math teachers, paraprofessionals)
- Opportunities for teacher Professional Development

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Newport News Public Schools (NNPS) supports and actively seeks input from families with students being served by Title I using feedback from Title I surveys and events (school based/district).

This policy was last updated and adopted November 2021. Newport News Public Schools is devoted to providing high quality educational opportunities and building family capacity by using effective family and community strategies to promote positive school-family-community partnerships.

Welcoming all Families

The Newport News School Division does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, marital status, age, pregnancy, sexual orientation, sexual identity, veteran status, or disability in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, Section 504, and ADA regulations.

Implementing and performing family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of ESSA inter-department communication and collaboration with NNPS will ensure diverse opportunities for full participation of families with limited English proficiency, disabilities and any migratory children. Interpreting, translation, and other support services for ESL or non-English speaking persons are available.

Supporting Student Success

Our family and community engagement strategies are data-driven to reinforce school initiatives, and support student progress.

Speaking Up for Every Child

We support all students by engaging and empowering families through the use of community resources that build on developmental skills that allow families to advocate for their students.

Sharing Leadership

We believe that parents are the essential voice for their child's educational success. Shared responsibility of providing the best educational component must be a joint effort. Parents are encouraged to have meaningful communication with their child's teacher to help them become College, Career, & Citizen-Ready. Our goal is for parents to take an active role in the decision-making process while gathering significant information from all parties. One method we use to formulate data is surveys that provides a manner in addressing questions and concerns. Strong partnerships build strong relations!

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

NNPS is dedicated to the growth, development and success of students and families in our community. Building family capacity is an important component of family and community engagement that affords families the opportunity to interact with local organizations, agencies and businesses to receive information, skills and training in areas that promote the positive advancement of the entire family. These connections lead to improved family stability enriched learning and a positive culture promoting a welcoming environment in all schools.

Family Right to Know

On December 10, 2015, the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) was signed into law. Section 1112(e)(2) of ESSA states that parents of students in Title I schools have a right to know about state or division policies regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by ESSA, including any policy, procedure, or parental right to opt students out of such assessments. If you would like to receive information about this topic, please contact your child's building principal.

Right-to-Know Teacher Licensing

Federal law allows you to ask for certain information about your child's teacher and requires the school division to give you this information in a timely manner if it is requested. You have the right to request the following information:

- Whether the teacher has met Virginia Department of Education qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject he/she teaches
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which the Virginia Department of Education qualification or licensing criteria have been waived
- Whether the teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification or degree he/she received
- Whether your child receives services from any instructional assistants or similar paraprofessionals, the qualifications of those individuals.

Newport News City Public Schools is committed to providing quality instruction for all students and does so by employing the most properly licensed and endorsed individuals to teach and support each student

If you would like to receive any of the above information, please submit your request in writing to: Parent Notification, Human Resources, Newport News Public Schools, 12507 Warwick Boulevard, Newport News, VA 23606. All requests will be honored in a timely manner.

Discovery STEM ACADEMY

State and Federal Information

VDoE School Quality Profile for NNPS: http://schoolquality.virginia.gov/schools

For the complete report go to
https://schoolquality.virginia.gov/schools/discovery-stem-academy
If you have specific questions, please speak with the building's principal.

Connect with us on social media!

nnpsfamilies

www.nnschools.org/face/