

Parent and Family Engagement Plan



The Social Justice School

5450 3rd Street NE
Washington, DC 20011

www.thesocialjusticeschool.org

Brandon Johnson, *Principal*

What Is Title I?

The Social Justice School is identified as a Title I school as part of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I is designed to support State and local school reform efforts tied to the challenging State academic standards to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support family engagement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with parents and family members a written parent and family engagement.

Parent Resource Center

At The Social Justice School, the Parent Resource Center is a resource and information hub for our families and community members. It is located in the Main Office and the primary priority of the PRC is to provide all of our families with the necessary information and support that they need to ensure that their scholars have everything that they need to be successful.

Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday | 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

School Plan for Shared Student Achievement

What Is It?

This is a plan that describes how The Social Justice School will provide opportunities to improve family engagement to support student learning. Our learning community values the contributions and involvement of parents and family members to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes the different ways that SJS will support family engagement and how parents can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.

How Is It Developed?

The Social Justice School welcomes parent feedback at any time regarding this plan. All parent feedback will be used to revise the plan for this school year. The plan is posted on our school website for parents to view throughout the year. We also distribute an annual survey online to ask parents for their suggestions on the plan and use of Title I funds for family academic engagement. This plan is finalized and approved by members of our Family Engagement and School Leadership Team by the end of October.

Who Is It For?

This plan is for all students participating in the Title I, Part A program and their families. All families are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. The Social Justice School provides complete opportunity for participation of parents with limited English, parents with disabilities and parents of migratory children.

Where Is It Available?

This plan will be distributed at the Annual Title I Parent Meeting held in October of 2022 and it will be handed out all of our Family Engagement Events. The plan is also posted on our website. Our parents can also retrieve a copy of this plan in the Parent Resource Center located inside the Main Office of our school.

Building Our School Parent Compact

As part of this plan, The Social Justice School and our families will develop a school-parent compact. This collaborative compact document is an agreement that parents, teachers and students will develop that explains how parents and teachers will work together to make sure all our students reach and exceed grade level standards. The compact will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents and community members during the Annual Input Meetings. The Annual Input Meeting for the 2022-23 school year will take place in December of 2021. We will use that meeting specifically to review our SPC.

Parent and Family Engagement at SJS

The Social Justice School believes that family engagement means the participation of parents and family members in regular and meaningful two-way communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- That parents play an integral role in assisting their scholar's learning.
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their scholar's education at school.
- That parents are full partners in their scholar's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their scholar.
- The carrying out of other activities as described in this plan.

Our Core Beliefs

Our educational philosophy is rooted in the idea that all scholars should engage in work that is meaningful, active and rooted in problem solving that contributes to a better world.

- Core Belief #1: We believe that our scholars, staff and families are fearless, relentless, empathetic and fully engaged in heart and mind.
- Core Belief #2: We believe in providing every scholar with an inclusive learning environment.
- Core Belief #3: We believe that effective educational systems are design oriented and iterative.

Title I Contact Information

Amber Ramos
Director of Operations

Phone Contact: 301-257-0287
E-Mail Contact: amber@thesocialjusticeschool.org

Our Assurances

The Social Justice School will take the following measures to promote and support parents and family members as an important foundation of the school in order to strengthen the school and reach the collective goals. We will:

- ✓ Ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities are included in the weekly school newsletter and emailed to all families.
- ✓ Provide training to staff on how to effectively communicate with parents. A face to-face training will take place each semester (Fall and Spring), as well as secondary methods.
- ✓ Partner with high schools to help prepare parents and their children for successful school transitioning.
- ✓ Share information in meetings, workshops and newsletters for parents to understand the school's academic standards and assessments as well as the ways parents can monitor their scholar's progress and work with educators.
- ✓ Communicate with all families on a regular basis regarding schoolwide events and activities, through emails, flyers, and newsletters.
- ✓ Work with our parents to develop relevant trainings and helpful presentations to educate our staff on the importance of parent and family engagement and how to support student learning.
- ✓ Provide necessary materials and handouts for parents at conferences, meetings, and activities to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement.
- ✓ Collect feedback from parents and family members at all events

Share Your Thoughts

We want to hear from you. If you have any suggestions or if there is any part of this policy that you feel is not satisfactory or does not meet the school's goals for academic achievement, please call the Main Office to schedule a conference call or virtual meeting to discuss your concerns. We will confirm with a meeting invitation within 72 hours of receiving the call.