



Social Justice School Family Engagement Policy

(In accordance with Every Student Succeeds Act, Section 1116)

Purpose

At the Social Justice School (SJS), we believe that families are essential partners in our mission to nurture scholar-activists who use their voices to create a more just world. Family engagement strengthens our school community and enhances scholar success. This Family Engagement Policy outlines how SJS partners with families to support learning, decision-making, and continuous school improvement.

1. Family Involvement in Designing the Policy

SJS ensures families are meaningfully involved in shaping and improving this Family Engagement Policy.

- Families are invited to participate in **planning, review, and improvement** through the **Parent Advisory Council (PAC)**, annual surveys, and schoolwide listening sessions.
- Feedback may also be shared via email or during family meetings.
- The PAC reviews and provides input on policy updates annually to ensure alignment with family and community needs.
(ESSA Section 1116(c)(3))

2. Offering Multiple Meetings and Activities at Flexible Times



To accommodate family schedules and promote participation, SJS offers meetings and engagement activities at various times throughout the year.

- **Morning, evening, and weekend options** will be available.
- **Virtual participation** will be offered when possible.
- **Title I funds** may be used to cover reasonable expenses, such as transportation, childcare, or home visit costs, to reduce barriers to participation.
(ESSA Section 1116(c)(2))

3. Annual Title I Meeting

SJS hosts an **Annual Title I Meeting** to:

- Inform families about the school's participation in the Title I program.
- Explain the requirements of the program and parents' right to be involved.
- Share how Title I funds support scholar learning and engagement.
The meeting will be advertised in advance via robocall, email, newsletters, and posted on the school website.
(ESSA Section 1116(c)(1))

4. Communication Between School and Families

Weekly Robocalls and Emails



Each Sunday evening, families receive a robocall and email from the Principal with important updates for the upcoming week. Families not receiving regular emails are encouraged to update their contact information through the student information portal or by contacting the front office.

The Social Justice School Times

- **Monthly newsletters** are prepared by grade-level teams and distributed on Fridays.
- **The Social Justice School Times**, a schoolwide newsletter, highlights key events, accomplishments, and updates.
- Families receive this via email and class dojo link.
- Families wishing to share announcements may email **Mr. Jiji at Jamica@thesocialjusticeschool.org.**

Website & Social Media

SJS's website — www.thesocialjusticeschool.org — provides a family calendar, announcements, lunch menus, and enrollment information in both English and Spanish. Families are encouraged to follow SJS on social media for real-time updates:

- **Facebook:** facebook.com/thesocialjusticeschool
- **Twitter/X:** [@sjs2020](https://twitter.com/sjs2020)
- **Instagram:** [@thesocialjusticeschool](https://www.instagram.com/thesocialjusticeschool)

(ESSA Section 1116(c)(4)(A))



5. Informing Parents About the Educational Program

SJS is committed to keeping families informed and engaged in their child's learning journey.

a. Timely Information

Families receive regular updates on academic programs, Title I initiatives, and student progress via newsletters, the website, and conferences.

b. Curriculum, Assessment, and Proficiency

Families receive:

- Overviews of grade-level curriculum and instructional practices.
- Information on academic assessments and performance expectations.
- Explanations of proficiency standards for each subject area.

c. Opportunities for Family Input

Families may request meetings with teachers or administrators to discuss student progress or make suggestions regarding their child's education. SJS will respond to family feedback as promptly as possible.

(ESSA Section 1116(c)(4)(B-C))

6. Ensuring Participation of All Families

SJS is committed to equitable engagement for all families, including those with limited English proficiency, disabilities, or migratory status.

- Key documents are translated into **Spanish**, and bilingual staff are available to assist families.



- **Spanish interpretation** is provided at all major family meetings and most schoolwide events.
- Families speaking **Amharic** or other languages may request translation or interpretation services for student-led conferences or other meetings.
(ESSA Section 1116(f))

7. Family-Teacher Collaboration

Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences

- **Mandatory student-led conferences** are held in **November** and **April**, where families, students, and teachers review academic progress and growth goals.
- **Progress reports** are provided prior to or during these conferences.
- These meetings are designed to empower students as advocates for their own learning while deepening family-school collaboration.

(ESSA Section 1116(c)(4)(C))

8. Visiting the Social Justice School

Family Meetings and Events

Family meetings and events are listed in The Social Justice Times, on the family calendar (website), and in the school lobby. Families are encouraged to attend and connect with others to strengthen community ties.



Stop By for a Visit

Families are welcome to connect with staff during arrival and dismissal times. Teachers and staff are often available for brief check-ins or can schedule longer meetings as needed.

Classroom Visits

SJS encourages families to visit classrooms and volunteer.

- Families should schedule visits in advance with the classroom teacher.
- Visits may include observing your child, volunteering with projects, or sharing expertise with the class.
- The purpose of all visits is to enhance understanding of the learning environment and strengthen the home-school connection.

To minimize disruption, families are asked to wait until **six weeks after the start of school** before arranging classroom visits. During that time, teachers and scholars are establishing classroom routines. If families wish to visit earlier, they should contact the Principal.

Due to public health and safety considerations, in-person visits may be limited.

9. Family Involvement in the Schoolwide Program Planning Process

Families play an active role in the development, review, and evaluation of SJS's Schoolwide Program Plan.

- The Parent Advisory Council and other family representatives will participate in the annual review and help identify priorities for improvement.



- Input collected through surveys, meetings, and listening sessions informs schoolwide strategies and Title I spending decisions.
(ESSA Section 1116(c)(3))

10. Family Feedback and Continuous Improvement

Each year, SJS gathers family feedback through surveys, focus groups, and family meetings.

- Feedback is used to evaluate the effectiveness of engagement strategies and Title I programs.
- Results are shared with the school community and incorporated into the school's improvement plan.

Commitment to Partnership

The Social Justice School believes that families and educators share a collective responsibility for scholar success. Through consistent communication, shared decision-making, and mutual respect, we can ensure that every scholar-activist thrives academically, socially, and emotionally — while developing the skills to lead change in their communities.