

# Casa Esperanza Montessori Public Charter

## PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

### PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Casa Esperanza Montessori will implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school will utilize programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents, consistent with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- The school will work to ensure that our required parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of ESSA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact.
- The school will incorporate our parent and family engagement policy into our school plan.
- The school will, to the extent practicable, provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children. This will include providing information and school reports in an understandable and uniform format and including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- The school will work to ensure that students and parents have the resources necessary for students to engage in remote instruction during required and optional remote instruction days.
- The school will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with the following definition of parent and family engagement:

***Parent and family engagement means participation of parents in regular, two- way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—***

***(A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;***

***(B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;***

***(C) that parents are full partners in their child’s education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and***

***(D) that parents participate in other activities, such as those described ESSA.***

## **PART II. SCHOOL -WIDE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY-IMPLEMENTATION-**

1. Casa Esperanza Montessori will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its school wide parent and family engagement policy:

- a. Hold a Federal Programs planning meeting during the first nine weeks of school for parents and staff.
- b. Require that a standing goal of the Parent Faculty Association be to take part in the development of and annual review of the parent and family engagement policy.

2. Casa Esperanza Montessori will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement:

- a. Hold a Federal Programs planning meeting during the first nine weeks of school for parents and staff.
- b. Require that a standing goal of the Parent Faculty Association be to take part in the development of and review of the School Improvement Plan. In addition, a parent representative will serve as an active member of the School Improvement Team.
- c. Encourage parents and family members to join school improvement board committees.
- d. Reserve at least one seat on the charter school Board of Directors for a parent representative.

3. Casa Esperanza Montessori will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (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). The school will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

4. Casa Esperanza Montessori will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. Casa Esperanza Montessori will provide assistance to parents in understanding topics such as the following, by hosting an annual Fall and Spring Family night and monthly Principal & Parents as Partners (P3) meetings where families have the opportunities to learn more about the following:

- Ways to understand and support Casa Esperanza's unique learning programs: Dual Language and Montessori

- North Carolina's academic content standards and how instructional planning and delivery at Casa Esperanza are aligned
- State and local standardized assessments and how to interpret results from those assessments
- Overall School Performance Data to include the School Performance Grade, Growth, Achievement and related action steps
- the requirements of Title I Part A, and
- how to monitor their child's progress

5. Casa Esperanza Montessori will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. This will include English language support for the Spanish Immersion classroom, math and literacy support for all learners, appropriate technology use for students, and how to foster parental involvement by supporting the Parent-Faculty Association, Family and Child Together Activities and parent-teacher-student conferences.

6. Casa Esperanza will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, student services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners. There will also be a focus on the value and utility of contributions of parents, and on how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools.

7. Casa Esperanza Montessori will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, NC Pre-K and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

8. If a need is determined beyond Casa Esperanza's Parent Faculty Association, a Parent Family Engagement Advisory Council will be established to ensure timely feedback is provided to school leadership regarding the policy and to ensure compliance with ESSA.

### **PART III. ADOPTION**

This Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed with, and agreed upon with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs. This policy was initially adopted on December 14, 2017 and revised in October 2018, September 2019, and June 2020. The policy was approved by the Casa Esperanza Montessori Board of Directors on June 18, 2020.