SAM HOUSTON
SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY
2026-2027

Principal: Molly Rice

Date Reviewed/Revised: July 2026

Date Distributed/Made Available to Families: August 2026

In alignment with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Maryville City Schools Parent and Family Engagement Policy, Sam Houston Elementary School participates in Title I, Part A. The school will jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating students a written School Parent and Family Engagement Policy that describes how the school will meet the requirements of Section 1116 of ESSA.

This policy is intended to strengthen meaningful partnerships among the school, families, and community to support student academic achievement. It should be reviewed and revised annually with meaningful parent and family involvement.

Joint Development, Annual Review, and Family Input

Sam Houston will involve parents and family members in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's Title I program, School Parent and Family Engagement Policy, and school improvement/schoolwide plan.

Sam Houston provides multiple opportunities for parents and family members to participate in the development, annual review, and improvement of the school's Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Title I program. Families are invited to provide input through parent surveys, parent meetings, advisory groups, PTO meetings, and the school improvement planning process. Parent and family feedback is reviewed and considered when revising the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, School-Parent Compact, school improvement plan, and Title I programs and activities.

Annual Title I Meeting

Sam Houston Elementary will convene an Annual Title I Meeting within the first four weeks of the school year at a convenient time and invite all families of participating students. Families will be notified via school newsletters, SeeSaw, and/or social media. The purpose of the meeting is to inform families of the school's participation in Title I, Part A, explain Title I requirements, and explain families' rights to be involved.

The Annual Title I Meeting will include information about:

- The school's participation in Title I, Part A and Title I program requirements;
- Parents' and families' rights to be involved;
- The district and school Parent and Family Engagement Policies;
- The School-Parent Compact;
- The school improvement/schoolwide plan;
- The curriculum used at the school;
- The forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress;
- Expected levels of student achievement;
- Opportunities for families to participate in decisions regarding their child's education; and
- The use of Title I funds for parent and family engagement, as applicable.

Annual Title I Meeting Documentation

The school will maintain documentation of the Annual Title I Meeting, including the invitation/notification, agenda, attendance/sign-in documentation, presentation or materials, and translations or language assistance documentation when applicable.

Flexible Meetings and Opportunities for Participation

Sam Houston will provide families with multiple opportunities to participate by offering meetings and activities at varying times of the day and, when appropriate, in multiple formats, including both in-person and virtual options. The school will

consider family needs and make reasonable efforts to reduce barriers to participation.

Timely Information and Communication

Sam Houston will communicate timely information to families through a variety of methods, including Seesaw, school newsletters, email, the school website and MCS app, Friday Folders, and other direct communications as appropriate. These methods will be used to share information about Title I programs, family engagement activities, upcoming meetings, school programs, and opportunities for families to participate.

Information will be provided in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language families understand. Alternative formats, accommodations, translation, and interpretation will be provided when appropriate to support meaningful participation.

Curriculum, Assessments, and Student Achievement

Sam Houston will provide parents and families with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels students are expected to meet.

Sam Houston will provide families with information about the school's curriculum, academic assessments, and expected achievement levels throughout the school year. Information will be available online through school and district resources and will also be shared through information provided directly to families, including during in-person meetings, parent conferences, family engagement activities, and other school communications.

Opportunities for Suggestions and Decision-Making

Sam Houston will provide families with multiple opportunities to provide input and participate in school decision-making through parent meetings, surveys, advisory groups, PTO meetings, school improvement planning, and other feedback opportunities. Families may also contact teachers or school administrators directly to provide suggestions, ask questions, or request a meeting regarding their child's education. Family input will be considered in decisions related to school programs, family engagement activities, and student learning, as appropriate.

School-Parent Compact

Sam Houston will jointly develop with parents and family members a School-Parent Compact that outlines how families, school staff, and students will share responsibility for improved student academic achievement.

The compact will address:

- The school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction;
- Ways families can support their child's learning;
- Student responsibilities, as appropriate;
- The importance of ongoing communication between families and teachers;
- Parent-teacher conferences;
- Reports to families regarding student progress;
- Reasonable access to school staff;
- Opportunities for families to volunteer, participate, and observe classroom activities, as appropriate; and
- Regular, meaningful, two-way communication between families and school staff.

School-Parent Compact Annual Review

The School-Parent Compact will be reviewed annually with meaningful parent and family involvement and will be posted on the school's website.

Families will participate in the annual development and review of the School-Parent Compact through parent surveys, parent meetings, advisory groups, PTO meetings, and other opportunities for feedback. Family input will be reviewed and considered when making revisions to the compact to ensure it reflects the shared responsibilities of the school, families, and students in supporting student achievement.

Building Family Capacity to Support Student Learning

Sam Houston will provide families with opportunities and resources to help support student learning at home, including family learning events, parent meetings and conferences, academic resources and materials, and information shared through school communications and online resources. Activities and resources will be based on student and family needs and may focus on areas such as literacy, mathematics, academic standards, assessments, technology, and strategies families can use to support their child's academic progress.

Building Staff Capacity for Family Engagement

Sam Houston will support effective family engagement by providing staff with training, tools, and strategies for meaningful communication and collaboration with families. Staff will utilize the MCS app with two-way messaging, Seesaw, the website, and other school communication tools to maintain regular communication with families. The school will also provide opportunities for staff to build relationships and engage with families through Open House, parent conferences, family engagement events, and other school activities throughout the year.

Accessibility and Inclusive Participation

Sam Houston will provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, for participation by families with limited English proficiency, disabilities, limited literacy, economic disadvantages, and other barriers that may limit meaningful participation. Appropriate opportunities will also be provided for families of migratory children, when applicable. The school will provide translated documents and communications, as appropriate, and interpreters for parent meetings, conferences, and school events when needed. Families may also access the website translation tool, and the MCS app supports two-way messaging in multiple languages, allowing families and school staff to communicate in their preferred language. Additional accommodations and supports will be provided as needed to reduce barriers to family participation.

Coordination and Additional Family Supports

Sam Houston provides a variety of programs and supports to connect families with school, district, and community resources. These include school- and district-level ELL Family Nights, which provide assistance with pre-registration and help families navigate school processes and resources. Families also have access to the MCS Family Resource Center, which provides direct support to families and serves as a connection to additional community resources and services. The Sam Houston administration, ELL teacher, and District Title III Coordinator will work together to identify family needs and coordinate appropriate school, district, and community supports.

Annual Evaluation and Use of Family Feedback

Sam Houston will collect family feedback through an annual survey provided to families at the beginning of the school year, as well as through ongoing communication with parents and families, parent meetings, conferences, school events, advisory groups, and other opportunities for feedback throughout the year. School staff will review feedback to identify family needs and barriers to participation and will use the findings to guide family engagement activities, strengthen communication and school-family partnerships, and make improvements to the school's Parent and Family Engagement Policy and practices as needed.

Policy Distribution

This School Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be distributed or otherwise made available to families of participating students and will be posted on the school's website. The policy will be reviewed annually and revised as necessary with meaningful parent and family involvement within the first 4-weeks of the new school year.

Principal/School Representative: _____ Date: _____