Cologne Academy Parent Involvement Plan
2026-2027

Cologne Academy (CA) is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child in this district. CA encourages, establishes, and fosters partnerships with parents and with the communities we serve.. Everyone gains when school and home work together to support high achievement of our children. Schools cannot do this job alone. Parents and families play an extremely important role as children's first teachers. Their support for their children and for their school is critical to their children's success at every step along the way.

Part I. District Expectations

Cologne Academy agrees to implement the following requirements:

1. The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

2. Consistent with section 1116, Cologne Academy will work to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1116(d) of the ESSA.

3. In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, Cologne Academy will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

4. Cologne Academy will incorporate this district wide parent and family engagement policy into its district plan developed under section 1112 of the ESSA.

5. If the district plan for Title I, Part A found in the Minnesota Education Grant System (MEGS), developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the Minnesota Department of Education.

6. The school district with a Title I, Part A allocation of over $500,000, will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to the schools.

7. Cologne Academy will be governed by the following definition of the term "parent" includes legal guardian or other person standing in place of a parent (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the child's welfare).

8. Parental involvement means the 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;
    d. that other activities are carried out, such as those described in section 1116 of the ESEA.

Part II. Description of How the District and School Will Implement Required Components

1. Cologne Academy will engage parents and families who have Title I students in developing/ revising the district and school policy. Cologne Academy actively seeks parental engagement by openly communicating the academic, social, and emotional needs of the child. The school board of education (which is parent majority) is actively involved in creating and implementing this policy to its fullest.

   Cologne Academy will jointly develop/revise with parents its parent involvement plan and distribute it to parents of participating children and make available the parent involvement plan to the local community. This is done through conferencing. The school's accountability specialists work with small groups of students to work on remedial skills that are identified by the student's classroom teachers and the accountability specialists.

   During the first four weeks of the academic year (September 22, 2026), Cologne Academy will convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their participation under this part and to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved.

   Cologne Academy will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in Minnesota (i.e., Minnesota Parent Center, Bloomington, MN).

2. Cologne Academy will take the following actions to engage the parents and families in jointly developing the district Title I plan (section 1112) which is in the MEGS application and the development and review of the Schoolwide or Title I Targeted Assistance Plan. If applicable the

Comprehensive Support and Improvement and the Targeted Support and Improvement plan, in the schools' identified for improvement plans. [Section 1111(D) (1)(2)] A working ad hoc school board committee led by teacher members will seek parent engagement through surveys and meetings to gather input for the Title I plan.

3. Cologne Academy will coordinate technical assistance and other support that is necessary to build the capacity of staff in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. This could include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders and philanthropic organizations or individuals with this experience in effectively engaging families in education.

   Cologne Academy works closely with county social workers/services on meeting the needs of the students who are in need. In conjunction with the school's social worker, school psychologist, academic specialists, and school counselor, student assistance teams meet with parents to plan for each child in need of additional academic, social, and emotional needs.

4. Cologne Academy will coordinate and integrate with federal, state and local programs, including public preschool programs, to implement effective parent and family engagement strategies that improve student achievement and school performance.

   Cologne Academy does not offer preschool. In partnership with the PAVE (People Are Vital Energy) the school coordinates events and strategies to engage parents involvement with their child(rens) school in a variety of areas.

5. Cologne Academy will take the following actions to conduct, with the engagement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy (programs/activities) in improving the academic achievement of Title I students and the schools.

   Reviewing and evaluating the parent and family engagement activities/programs:

   a. Identify barriers and the needs of parents and family members that keep them from participating in their child's education, especially the economically disadvantaged, disabled, limited English proficiency or any racial or ethnic minority.
   b. Identify the needs of the Title I parents and family members to assist the learning of their children and the teachers and school staff.
   c. Identify strategies to support successful school and family interactions.

   Cologne Academy provides accessibility for families to complete an engagement survey. This is distributed via email and is available in paper form, too. The school gathers the data and creates action plans based on parental feedback. In some cases, special ad hoc committees form to seek further understanding of the feedback to ensure proper action items meet the need of the input.

   Cologne Academy will use the findings of the evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement as necessary and to revise the parent and family

engagement policy as necessary. This may include providing speakers to address families on specific topics of needs and/or providing individual family assistance.

6. Cologne Academy will involve parents in activities at Cologne Academy. This could be establishing a parent advisory board that represents the population of Title I parents and family members, that develops, evaluates and reviews or revises the parent and family engagement policy.
   Each year we invite families of students receiving Title I to participate. Overall, 95% of parents attend conferences in person. The others we provide conferences over the phone. Through this active participation, we get individual feedback on our programs.

7. Cologne Academy will convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, when the parents of participating children are available to attend. The Title I annual meeting will inform parents about the Title I program, explain the requirements of parent and family engagement and the rights and responsibilities of the parents to be involved.
   The meeting will be held during our back-to-school preconference day in August. The school provides an incentive for parents to increase attendance.

8. Cologne Academy will offer flexible meeting times during morning, evening or weekends and may provide transportation, child care or home visits. If necessary, Cologne Academy is able to provide flexibility.

9. Cologne Academy will involve parents in the planning and review of the school improvement plan and the joint development of the schoolwide plan when applicable. If the schoolwide plan is not satisfactory to the parents, submit comments on the plan when submitted to the district. [Section 1114(b)] At the board level, the school holds strategic planning sessions to look for areas of school improvement. These meetings are open to the public and publicized.

10. Cologne Academy will provide assistance to parents of Title students:
    a. Timely information about programs offered to engage in their child's education.
    b. An explanation of the curriculum, state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments, and the achievement levels of the state academic standards.
    c. If they request, opportunities for regular meetings to hear their suggestions and participate in decisions related to their child's education.

Part III. Description of the Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement

Cologne Academy will jointly develop with Title I parents a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement to meet the state academic standards. The compact should:

1. Describe the curriculum and instruction that help their student meet the state standards, identify where their child is performing and discuss ways the parent can support their child's education at home and at school.
2. Talk about the importance of the teachers and parents communicating on an ongoing basis at a minimum:

    a. Conduct a parent-teacher conference in elementary schools, at least annually, during which time the compact is discussed as it relates to the individual child.
    b. Provide frequent reports to parents on their children's progress.
    c. Provide information on how parents can contact staff and staff can best contact parents, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities.
    d. Make sure that two-way meaningful communication between family members and school staff is addressed and when at all possible, is in a language the parents and family members can understand.

Part IV. Accessibility

Cologne Academy will meet the requirements of parent and family engagement of Title I, to the extent practicable, we will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents with children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents can understand.

Cologne Academy will provide supports to reach all families.

Part V. Adoption

The Cologne Academy Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I programs, as evidenced by meeting minutes and sign-in sheets.

On June 23, 2026 the Cologne Academy Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be in effect for the period of the FY27 school year.

Cologne Academy will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I children and make it available to the community.

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(Signature of Title I Authorized Representative)

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(Date)

Resources:

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Section 1116, PDF of the federal law

Titles I and II, Compliance Guide and Monitoring Tool, on the Minnesota Department of Education's website

Title I, Part A, Parent and Family Engagement Toolkit, Texas Education Agency and Region 16 ESC, Statewide Parent and Family Engagement Initiative

Parent and Family Engagement (PFE) in Title I, Part A Programs, State of Washington, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Local Educational Agencies (LEA/District) and School Policies, Georgia Department of Parent and Family Engagement

Family and Community Engagement, United States Department of Education