CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Parent and Family Engagement Policy
School Year 2026-2027

To support every student's academic growth, *(School Name)* receives Title I, Part A funding. As part of this program, we work together with families to create a **Parent and Family Engagement Policy with** a shared commitment to student achievement.
This policy outlines how we'll collaborate with parents and caregivers to meet the goals of Every **Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Section 1116**. It will be:

- **Developed and agreed upon together** with families of participating students
- **Shared in clear, easy-to-understand language**—and translated when possible
- **Available to the community** on our website and updated regularly to reflect your needs

The policy sets expectations for how we'll engage families and describe specific activities that support meaningful involvement in your child's education.
We believe that **strong partnerships between schools and families lead to student success.** Stay connected, get involved, and help shape the future of our school community!

Paul L. Dunbar understands that Parent and family engagement is about building strong, two-way communication between families and schools. It means working together to support student learning and school success. This includes:

- **Helping children learn**: Parents and families play a key role in supporting their child's learning at home and in school.
- **Being involved at school**: Families are encouraged to take part in school activities and stay connected with what's happening in their child's education.
- **Partnering in decision-making**: Families are valued partners in shaping their child's education and may be invited to join school committees or give input on important decisions.

Paul L. Dunbar agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by ESSA Section 1116:

A. ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Paul L. Dunbar will host an annual meeting at a convenient time for families. All parents and guardians of participating students will be invited and encouraged to attend. During the meeting, we will share important information about:

- The Title I program and how it supports student learning
- What Title I mean for families
- The school's policy on parent and family engagement
- The schoolwide improvement plan
- The agreement between the school, parents, and students (school-parent compact)

The annual Title I meeting is held as part of Open House in September

B. **FLEXIBLE NUMBER OF MEETINGS**

Paul L. Dunbar will offer a flexible number of family engagement meetings based on the current OPHAS level, as described in Part A. These meetings will be scheduled at times that are convenient for families, such as in the morning or evening. If the state is at OPHAS Level 1, Title I funds may be used to support participation by providing services like transportation, childcare, or home visits, if these services are connected to family engagement efforts.

Parent Cafes will be held monthly

C. **JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

Parent L. Dunbar are committed to actively involving parents and families in meaningful and consistent ways. Together, we will plan, review, and improve our Title I, Part A programs — including shaping our school's parent and family engagement policy and developing our schoolwide program plan. Your voice matters, and your partnership helps us build stronger schools and brighter futures.

- *There will be a parent participant on the AAP team, and monthly parent meetings will be used as a platform to develop family engagement, including the Parent Engagement Policy.*

D. **COMMUNICATION**

- Paul L. Dunbar will provide **families, caregivers, and community members** of participating children with timely and accessible information about programs under Title I. This includes:
- A clear description and explanation of the curriculum being used,
- The types of academic assessments used to measure student progress,
- The achievement levels aligned with the challenging State academic standards, and
- Opportunities—upon request—for regular meetings where families and stakeholders can offer suggestions and actively participate in decisions related to their children's education. We will respond to such suggestions as promptly as possible.
- Information about school programs, family and community engagement activities, and related meetings will be shared in a format that is understandable and consistent. Alternative formats will be provided upon request, and, to an extent practicable, in languages that families and caregivers can understand.

Monthly newsletters, IWRs, eblasts, Paul L. Dunbar Arts Enrichment Academy Facebook, Paul L. Dunbar Arts Enrichment Academy website, flyers, class Dojo, phone calls, and text messages will be used as a means of communication. Translation will be available as needed

E. DISSENSION PROCESS

Paul L. Dunbar will submit any comments/concerns to the CMSD Office of Family and Community Engagement if the schoolwide plan and/or parent and family engagement policy is not satisfactory to parents and family members.

Any comments/concerns can be emailed to the Executive Director of Family and Community Engagement, Tracy Hill, at tracy.hill@clevelandmetroschools.org.

F. SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Paul L. Dunbar will collaborate with parents and families of enrolled students to co-create a School-Family Compact. This shared agreement will outline how families, educators, school staff, and students will work together to support academic success. It will highlight each partner's role in helping children meet the state's high academic standards and explain how the compact will be used, reviewed, and updated regularly to reflect our shared goals and progress.

Monthly parent meetings and ongoing programs will function as a forum to discuss and develop family engagement, including the Parent-School Compact. The Compact will be updated at the end of each school year and shared at the next year's Open House.

G. BUILD CAPACITY OF PARENTS

- Paul L. Dunbar will be committed to empowering parents and families as essential partners in their children's education. Through meaningful collaboration, we aim to strengthen family engagement and build lasting connections between home, school, and community to support student success. Our efforts will include:
- **Providing accessible materials and interactive training** that help families support their children's learning at home. This includes literacy development, responsible use of technology (including awareness around copyright practices), and other tools that promote active family involvement.
- **Offering clear and supportive guidance** to help families understand key educational topics, such as:
    - State academic content and achievement standards
    - State and local assessments, including alternate assessments
    - Title I, Part A requirements
    - Strategies for monitoring student progress
    - Ways to collaborate effectively with educators to enhance student achievement
- **Partnering with families to educate school staff**—including teachers, support personnel, principals, and leaders—on the value of family contributions. Together, we'll explore best practices for communication, collaboration, and inclusive engagement that treat families as equal partners in education.
- **Integrating family engagement efforts across programs**, including federal, state, and local initiatives such as public preschool. We'll also support family resource centers and

provide materials that encourage and celebrate family participation in every aspect of their child's educational journey.

H. ACCESSIBILITY

Paul L. Dunbar will be committed to ensuring that all parents and families—regardless of language, ability, or background—have meaningful opportunities to participate in their children's education. Whenever possible, we will provide information, including school reports required under Section 1111, in formats and languages that are accessible and understandable to all caregivers, including those with limited English proficiency, disabilities, or who are part of migratory communities.

Provide translated materials and interpretation service, offer school information in accessible formats, provide flexible meeting times and phone or virtual meetings, work with families to address language, disability or other barriers for participation.

This School Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents and families of children participating in Title I, Part A programs.

State how policy was developed with SPO, PAC or other parent leaders and when

Policy was developed collaborate with parents and family leaders through parent engagement meetings. Our parent ambassador reviewed the policy and shared family feedback. The policy was shared at the Annual Title I meeting during the September 2026 Open House.

This policy was adopted by the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and will be in effect for the period of 2026-2027. The school will distribute this policy to all parents and families participating in Title I, Part A children on or before 09/04/2026.

(Signature of Principal)

(Signature of Parent/Caregiver Leader)

10-23-26

(Date)

10-23-26

(Date)