

Policy

In accordance with Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), St. Coletta of Greater Washington is committed to engaging families as active partners in their child's education. As a recipient of Title I funding, St. Coletta collaborates with families to develop a comprehensive **Parent and Family Engagement Policy**, as well as a **School-Parent Compact** that outlines shared responsibilities for supporting student achievement.

St. Coletta School is dedicated to fostering strong home-school connections by encouraging meaningful collaboration with parents and caregivers. Our policies and practices are designed to support seamless transitions between school, home, and community environments. We aim to eliminate barriers to engagement and promote inclusive participation for all families.

Procedures

1. Involving Families in the Development of the Title I LEA Plan

Families will be engaged in shaping the Title I Local Education Agency (LEA) plan through the following methods:

- **Annual Title I Planning Meeting:** Parents are invited to participate in meetings with school leadership to review the current plan, discuss how Title I funds are used, and provide input on priorities such as student achievement, staff development, parent involvement, and access to educational resources.
- **Review of School-Parent Compact:** Families will be asked to review and comment on the compact that outlines shared responsibilities between the school and parents to support student success.
- **Annual Surveys:** Families will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the effectiveness of school-family partnerships, parental involvement activities, and the overall school climate.
- **Feedback on Trainings:** Families can complete feedback forms related to the effectiveness and relevance of parent trainings provided under the current Title I plan.

2. Effective Communication

St. Coletta will communicate with families regularly and clearly to ensure transparency and encourage engagement. Communication strategies include:

- **Routine School-to-Home Communication:** Regular updates on events, student progress, school initiatives, and parent training opportunities will be sent home in accessible formats.
- **Quarterly Town Halls:** Families will be invited to attend quarterly Town Halls, which provide updates covering key events, progress on school goals, and highlights of student achievement.
- **Invitations and Reminders:** Invitations to parent discussion groups, “Save the Date” cards, and training registration flyers will be provided in advance.
- **Digital and Social Media Outreach:** Key school updates and student highlights will be posted on official social media platforms to increase visibility and accessibility.
- **Weekly Teacher Communications:** Teachers will share updates via the parent portal on student progress, daily routines, and classroom activities.

3. Supporting Family Participation

To ensure all families are able to engage meaningfully with the school community, St. Coletta will:

- **Offer Targeted Parent Trainings:** Training sessions will be developed based on needs identified by families through surveys and discussions.
- **Provide Access Supports:** Meetings will be held at flexible times and locations. Transportation stipends, translation services, and childcare will be provided as needed to remove logistical barriers.
- **Distribute Training Materials:** Parents unable to attend in-person sessions will be given access to training materials in print or digital formats.
- **Offer Individual Sessions:** Parents may request one-on-one training or coaching with teachers and therapists to better support their child’s needs.

4. Supporting Student Success through Family Involvement

Active parent and caregiver involvement is essential to student achievement. St. Coletta expects family participation in educational planning and offers the following supports:

- **Timely IEP Notifications:** Ample notice will be provided for IEP meetings, with rescheduling options to accommodate families’ schedules.
- **Collaborative IEP Planning:** Families will be invited to planning meetings with teaching and therapy staff to collaboratively develop student goals.

- **Flexible Conference Scheduling:** Parent-teacher conferences will be offered at varied times and locations to ensure accessibility.

5. Opportunities for Meaningful Engagement

St. Coletta values the role of families in the broader school community and provides multiple opportunities for engagement, including:

- Participation in **school-wide events** that focus on life skills, community themes, and seasonal or celebratory activities.
- Involvement in **hands-on activities and learning experiences** that promote functional skills and student development.