

Genesee STEM Academy Parent Involvement Plan

The Board of Directors for GSTEMA has adopted a policy addressing the importance of parent involvement. In addition to board policies and guidelines, GSTEMA also recognizes the need for a policy that meets the requirements under Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Act, as amended by the NCLB Act of 2001, also referred to as Title I.

Parents of students are vital partners in the education of their children. Accordingly, they are encouraged to participate in the development of Title I activities, the development and evaluation of the School Improvement Plan and to be kept informed about the programs in which their child participate. Moreover, they are to be kept informed of the academic progress their child makes as a result of these programs, for it is through mutual understanding and close corporation between GSTEMA and home that a student's academic success improves. Two-way communication between GSTEMA and home, both verbal and written, provides a sound base for a strong partnership and aid in assuring an effective educational program for all students.

In addition to participation in Title I activities, parents are encouraged to become an active decision-maker in the Parent Ambassador group. The Parent Ambassador group will meet monthly. To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among staff, parents, partners, and community stakeholders, GSTEMA will:

1. Provide assistance to parents in understanding such topics as the state's academic content and achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, and monitoring students' progress and work with educators.
2. Provide assistance to parents in understanding such topics as homework help, technology, college/career pathways, STEM curriculum, and other topics as identified on an annual parent survey.
3. Coordinate and integrate, to a feasible and appropriate extent, parent involvement programs and activities with preschools and before / after school programs.
4. Ensure that the curriculum, textbooks, and teaching materials used at GSTEMA are available for review by parents.
5. Seek ideas from community-based organizations and partners and coordinate opportunities for parents to be involved in such programs.
6. Encourage parents to visit GSTEMA for volunteer training and information, visit their child's classroom, actively volunteer in the life of the school, and attend meetings and events. In addition, GSTEMA encourages parents to offer their ideas and suggestions.
7. GSTEMA will make every effort to accommodate parents with disabilities and with varying work schedules.

Regular Communication with Parents

In order to build consistent and effective communication between the home and GSTEMA, communication includes:

- The Parent and Student Handbook
- Regular school and classroom newsletters
- Annual school calendar
- Special event and reminder notices
- Mid-trimester progress reports
- Report Cards
- Three (3) parent / teacher conferences
- Parent Nights / Special Events
- Monthly Parent Ambassador meetings
- Monthly School Improvement meetings
- GSTEMA "State of Address"
- School assemblies / ceremonies
- Website

Visitor and Volunteer

Parent involvement in the formal and informal education of students is essential. Parents are expected to review and honor the following rules while visiting or volunteering at GSTEMA. Violation of these rules endangers the safety of students and their right to an education. Those not abiding by these rules may be barred from the building or participation in school-related education.

Guidelines

1. Potential volunteers are required to complete the appropriate level of background check including fingerprinting before volunteering may begin. Forms are available in the school office.
2. All volunteers and visitors must sign in and wear a form of identification provided by GSTEMA. Upon departing, all must sign out. Volunteers and visitors are not allowed to walk directly to any classroom or area.
3. GSTEMA is a public school with a Board policy of neutrality regarding religion. Visitors or volunteers may neither show preference for any one religion over any other religion nor share their personal religious views with students.
4. Smoking and tobacco use are prohibited anywhere on school property, in all indoor facilities, and in the presence of students.
5. Corporal punishment is prohibited.
6. The distribution of literature, without prior approval from the school leader or designee, is prohibited.