

St. Mary's Academy Charter School

Parent and Family Engagement Plan

SMACS Parent and Family Engagement Plan

St. Mary's Academy Charter School and the Parent and Family Engagement Committee believe that all parents, teachers, and community leaders are a valuable link in the educational success of all students. We promote the involvement of these key stakeholders by having them take part in the process that allows them to contribute to our school community providing input regarding the services offered in an effort to maximize the quality of education for SMACS students. We have established a Parent and Family Engagement Plan to increase the collaboration between all stakeholders. The active participation of parents, teachers, business and community leaders in all aspects of students' education is a valuable tool that St. Mary's Academy Charter School welcomes and respects.

SMACS Parent and Family Engagement Strategic Plan

Facilitate family-to-family support

SMACS will include Parental Engagement activities to form campus-family relationships, and provide parents with opportunities to participate in campus initiatives, such as:

- Parenting Education Classes (One every nine-week period)
- Family Literacy Night
- Monthly Parent Newsletter (Home & School Connection)
- Provide multilingual notifications
- Parent Conferences
- Parent Volunteer Opportunities
- Parent Engagement meetings regarding school to home educational resources and activities to support student learning in the home (Meeting times to vary throughout the day)
- and/or parent-initiated school-community efforts in order to continue to be leaders/advocates in the community and on their child's campus

Establish a network of community resources

SMACS in partnership with the community will establish resources that provide services to the students, in an effort to equip parents and caregivers with skills needed to have a healthy and productive family. Some of the resources will be:

- Texas Health and Human Services (Your Texas Benefits)
- Region 2 Education Service Center
- Child Find - Early identification of students with special needs.
- Flu Shot Availability (Health Department, Wal-Mart, Walgreens)
- 1st Grade Dental Kits (Masonic Lodge)
- Veteran's Day Program
- Fire/Drug Prevention (Fire Department, Police/Sheriff Department)
- Library Book Donation (Daughters of the Republic of Texas)

Increase family participation in decision making

SMACS encourages family participation in decision making. Their contributions are crucial to a well-rounded and well thought out plan that will facilitate support for all stakeholders and impact positive student achievement. Parents will be invited to participate and serve in:

- Campus and District Wide Site-Based Planning Committee
- Title I Part A
- Regularly scheduled campus-level parent meetings
- Invite family feedback (evaluations) and suggestions with regard to activities being provided.

Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning

SMACS will equip families with learning opportunities to enhance and extend learning by providing:

- Monthly newsletters offering ideas for motivation, discipline, ideas for enhancing learning, etc. (Home & School and Connection)
- Campus Literacy Events - Book Fairs and Family Literacy Nights
- Make and take parent sessions to support student learning at home.
- Provide orientation tours for Head Start
- ParenUFamily Engagement Annual Conference (Region 2)
- Provide contact information for Literacy classes for non-English speaking parents
- Orientation and description of curriculum and academic assessments used to measure students' progress
- Provide student compact to promote academic achievement

Develop staff skills in evidence-based practices that support families in meeting their children's learning benchmarks.

SMACS' goal is to offer staff development to support teachers in helping families so that their children reach learning benchmarks.

Offer staff development such as Region 2 trainings and campus training addressing services available for parents.

- Utilizing Remind to involve parents in the education of their children on a daily or weekly basis.
- Individual parent/teacher conferences to discuss learning goals and progress toward meeting those goals using the language of the home.
- Help teachers grow their leadership abilities by having them conduct make and take sessions with parents.
- Provide teachers with training on research-based strategies parents can use with students to provide support at home.

Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement

Trainings, workshops, meetings, and parental involvement activities are followed with an evaluation which provides parents the opportunity to express their views on the value of the activity.

- Use parent input to provide valuable information in the planning, development and implementation of programs for the district
- Parent Surveys
- Compile evaluation data and use it to plan and implement a more effective Parent and Family Engagement Program
- Parent and Family Engagement Committee will have the opportunity for annual plan revision