

Downtown Magnets High School
Parent Involvement Policy – 2011 / 2012

DMHS PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

PURPOSE OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

Downtown Magnets High School is a Title 1 School, and as such is required to write a Parent Involvement Policy and distribute it to the parents of all the students.

Title 1 of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2006 is the largest federally funded educational program. This program, authorized by Congress, provides supplemental funds to school districts to assist schools with the highest student concentrations of poverty to meet school educational goals.

At the beginning of each school year, in the Fall, we have a Title 1 meeting inviting all parents to attend.

SCHOOL WIDE PARENT SUPPORT

Parent participation is taken seriously at Downtown Magnets High School and is not relegated solely to the Parent Center or school committees. Everyone from the principal, to the teachers, the staff, the parents themselves, and the students are committed to supporting parent participation.

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

Downtown Magnets has very robust school governance committees with strong parent participation. There is an orientation and election at the beginning of the school year to elect new members and officers. Many parents who decline to become members still regularly attend the meetings and join in the discussions. Several students are on the School Site Council and parents bring their little ones to the meetings, too. They are entertained with coloring books and crayons.

The meetings are an opportunity for parents to speak to parents, to meet and support each other, and to share information about upcoming events and community resources. These community resources are returned to the Parent Center where they are posted online and redistributed to all the parents. At the committee meetings parents follow the guidelines of LAUSD Bulletin 5430 (Categorical Advisory Committees and School Site Councils), make recommendations to the administration regarding Title I, Title III, and other categorical funds

Our four school governance committees are:

- CEAC – Compensatory Education Advisory Committee
- ELAC – English Learner Advisory Committee
- SSC – School Site Council
- SDM – School Decision Making

WORKSHOPS AND PARENT TRAINING FOR 2011 / 2012

Each year the school hosts an Advisory Committee Orientation and Election, two Parent Teacher Conferences, Back to School Night (Fall), Open House (Spring), and a Bring Your Parent to School Day. Other proposed workshops are included below.

9th Grade Math Intervention

The Parent Center will reach out to the parents of incoming 9th grade algebra students, offering an orientation to the ALEKS math program so that parents can track their child's use of the program and her/his progress. This will encourage learning at home.

Homework, Planner, and Binder Check

We will offer a parent workshop on checking their child's homework, planner, and signing the child's binder check form. This will involve parents in their child's school work and show the child that the parent cares about their work and has expectations for her/his success.

Coffee with the Principal

Every month parents will meet with the Principal and other staff members to discuss school news, policies, questions and concerns.

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Email and Computer Classes

Many parents do not have, or do not know how to use, email. We will offer computer and email classes at multiple times throughout the year.

Financial Planning

We will work with community groups to offer workshops on financial literacy and financial services for immigrants. We will work with the East Los Angeles Community Corporation and local credit unions.

ISIS Training

The Integrated Student Information System (ISIS) Parent Module allows parents to track their child's grades and attendance online.

Parliamentary Procedure

This workshop would teach participating parents how to make motions and raise objections in school governance meeting, with the goal of empowering parents to be more involved in the process.

Special Education Workshops

To teach parents about assessment, Student Success Teams, Individualized Education Plans, 504 plans, and parent's rights.

Volunteer Orientation

We will offer volunteer orientation and opportunities that convey specific skills to the volunteer, such as computer use, typing, desktop publishing, event planning, etc.

In addition we will seek out classes to assist parents in creating and maintaining a healthy family.

THE PARENT CENTER

The Parent Center is on the upper level of the school facing Beaudry Street. Parents may park in the upper or lower lot. No parking permit is necessary. Parents need to sign in and get a visitor's pass at the front office (upstairs) or the attendance office (downstairs). The Parent Center is open from 8:00am until 3:00pm. Five computers with Internet connection are available for parent use, as well as printers and copiers.

The Parent Center is currently staffed by our Title 1 and Bilingual Coordinator, Mrs. Norma Villalobos,. Mrs. Villalobos can be reached by phone at (213) 481-0371, ext. 5118, and by email at nxv9968@lausd.net. Mrs. Villalobos speaks both English and Spanish fluently.

The staff of the Parent Center is available to answer questions about the school, listen to your concerns, help schedule appointments with teachers and administrators, arrange translation, and accompany you to appointments as a liaison if you like.

The Parent Center also updates the DMHS website and publishes the parent newsletter which is mailed to parents with a school calendar, and flyers about upcoming events every other month.

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ADDENDUM:

BUL-2680 Title I Parent Involvement Policy, April 2006

DISTRICT POLICY

Parental Involvement

Section I: The District Parent Involvement Policy, page 4

The District will jointly develop with, and distribute to parents of participating children, a written parent involvement policy that is incorporated into the District's NCLB Plan. The policy will address the following requirements:

- Involve parents in the joint development of its plan and in the process of school review and improvement.
- Provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student achievement.
- Build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement.
- Coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with those of other programs, e.g., Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, the Parents as Teacher Program, and State preschool programs.'
- Conduct, with the involvement of parents, and (sic) annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of Title I schools.
- Determine whether there has been increased participation and whether there are barriers to greater participation, particularly by parents who are disabled, who have limited English proficiency, limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background.
- Use the evaluation findings to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise parents' involvement policies at the District and school levels.
- Involve parents in the activities of Title I schools.

BUL-2680 Title I Parent Involvement Policy, September 1, 2006

SCHOOL SITE

Section I: School Requirements, page 28

- Principal must be responsible for ensuring that statutory councils/committees and chairpersons receive the school plan and budget as prescribed in the time task calendar and obtain the signature of the chairperson upon statutory councils/committees approval.
- Principal, with the assistance of Local District/PCSB and statutory councils/committees, must be responsible for providing training for parents on school-level plan, budget, assessment, and all other areas that will maximize parents' effectiveness as partners in their child's education.