



New Village Girls Academy Parent & Family Engagement Policy

Purpose of the Parent & Family Engagement Policy

Parents/guardians and family members are highly encouraged to be involved in the education of their students. Studies show that consistent engagement at home and at school help children do well academically and results in schools being successful at educating all children.

Parents/guardians have the right to be included in the educational process and to have access to the school system on behalf of their children. These rights and responsibilities are outlined in California Education Code Section 51101 as follows:

- *Classroom Observance:* Parents/ guardians have the right to visit their child's classroom to observe activities. Please see the Visitor Policy.
- *Teacher Conferences:* Parents/ guardians have the right to request a conference with their child's teacher(s) or the principal. Contact the school to schedule a date and time.
- *Volunteering:* Parents/guardians have the right to volunteer their time and resources for the improvement of school facilities and programs. Contact the school to determine the terms and conditions of this service.
- *Student Attendance:* Parents/guardians have the right to be notified in a timely manner if their child is absent from school without permission.

New Village Girls Academy makes every effort to be flexible and accommodating to each parent/guardian and family member. The school offers a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in evening or rescheduled to be one-on-one at the time that works best for the parent/guardian. The school may provide, if appropriate and allowable, support with transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement.

Parents and family members are encouraged to attend all school events and bi-monthly parent meetings in order to be involved, and in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, provide input in the planning, review, and improvement of programs, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of schoolwide program plan under ESSA Section 1114(b).

Parent & Family Involvement in the Development of the Policy

New Village Girls Academy holds an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents and family members of participating children are invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's Parent & Family Engagement Policy.

Parents and family members are involved in the development of the parent and family engagement policy through discussions hosted during the bi-monthly parent meetings, hosted in person and accessible through teleconference. Discussions are part of the agenda items and reviewed at minimum, once per school year.

Comments, changes, disagreements, and questions to the policy may be brought up during a bi-monthly parent meeting, shared in writing and submitted to the school Principal at any point. All comments, questions, and requests will be shared at the following parent meeting. Changes to the policy will be agreed upon by school leadership, parents, and family members.

Coordination & Integration of Engagement Strategies

New Village Girls Academy coordinates and integrates parent and family engagement strategies with other relevant federal, state, local laws, and programs. Coordination is led by the school's leadership team, parent advisory board, and the Parent & Family Liaison. Planning takes place during parent meetings to ensure alignment.

Annual Evaluation of Policy

Each year, New Village Girls Academy will include questions about the effectiveness of this policy on improving academic quality of the school. In addition, a focus group will be hosted during a parent meeting to collect anecdotal information on the overall impact school events, communication, and content shared with parents and families on student learning. The results of the survey and focus group will be shared the following school year as the new policy is updated.

Questions will include:

- Identify barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by this section (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background);
- identify the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers;
- and identify strategies to support successful school and family interactions

Based on the findings, the school will design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement and revise, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policy.

Parent Meetings & Advisory Board

Every other month, New Village Girls Academy hosts a parent meeting. During this parent meeting the following is covered:

- School Programs & Services
- Description & Explanation of the Curriculum in Use
- Academic Assessments & Student Progress
- State Academic Standards
- Attendance
- Wellness & Social Services Available
- Upcoming School Events
- Parent & Family Opportunities to get Involved & Volunteer

Each school year, a parent advisory board is voted into a yearlong term. The parent advisory board is composed of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the school to adequately represent the needs of the population served for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy.