

Lois & Jerry Tarkanian Middle School

Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2018-2019 School Year

This policy has been jointly developed and agreed upon by Tarkanian Middle School and parents and family members of students served in the school pursuant to Title I.

Tarkanian Middle School convened an annual meeting to evaluate this policy, review how the school's Title I funds will be spent, and explain the rights and responsibilities of parents and students. We provided multiple meeting times to accommodate parents and their schedules. The first meeting was held in conjunction with the monthly School Organizational Team (SOT) meeting on September 4, 2018, at 3:30 pm and was open for parents and family members to give further input. The Title I information and this policy was also available for review and discussion at the monthly Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) on September 4, 2018 at 9:30 am. For those not in attendance, the information was posted on the school's website. In addition, Tarkanian Middle School sets aside one day each month for PAC and SOT meetings; PAC meetings are offered at 9:30 am and SOT meetings are offered at 3:30 pm on the first Tuesday each month school is in session. These meetings allow parents and family members to meet with the principal and other staff members to plan and organize ways to support students and staff, share and analyze the results of the annual District Wide Parent Survey, and to discuss a variety of topics that are pertinent to student achievement and success.

For the 2017-2018 school year, 156 parents responded to the District Wide Survey, which was less than eight percent of our student body population. This number was up from the 70 parents who took the survey in the 2016-2017 school year. We would like to continue to increase the number of parents providing feedback to our school and will remind and encourage parents to take the survey via ParentLink and Facebook messages. We will use the data provided through the District Wide Survey to modify our Parent Family Engagement Policy as needed. Survey results will be reviewed and shared with parents through the PAC and SOT meetings.

When compared to the Clark County School District averages, Tarkanian parents had higher levels of agree and strongly agree to questions dealing with the Pledge of Achievement Goal #5, "Happy with School" and "Student Safety." It is the goal of Tarkanian Middle School to continue to increase the percentage of parent "agree" and "strongly agree" responses to these questions in the coming years.

When compared again to CCSD averages Tarkanian parents had slightly lower levels of agree and strongly agree to questions dealing with the Pledge of Achievement Goal #4,

“Engagement.” Through the items outlined in this plan, it is the goal of Tarkanian Middle School to continue to increase the percentage of parent “agree” and “strongly agree” responses to these questions in the coming years.

The school’s Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be distributed in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents and family members can understand. The Parent and Family Engagement Policy will also be made available to the community by posting it on the school website.

Tarkanian Middle School will involve parents and family members in an organized, ongoing, and timely way in the planning, review, and improvement of the Title I programs, School Performance Plan, and Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Dates of these meetings are posted on the school website and shared with parents and family members via Facebook, Twitter, and ParentLink messages.

Tarkanian Middle School will involve parents and family members in several ways. Parents and family members may visit the campus in order to observe their student in the learning process. This may be done at any time during the school year, at the convenience of the parents and family members.

In addition, the Educational Involvement Accord is completed through the online registration process for new and returning students. Parents and family members must review the Accord prior to completing their student’s registration. Administrators and teachers will have access to the Accords when needed for conferences or other occasions.

Parents and family members can access information about Tarkanian Middle School from the school website, printed monthly newsletters, the school Facebook page, the school Twitter account, and via communications sent through ParentLink and Infinite Campus.

Parents and family members were invited to attend Open House on August 21, 2018. Open House is a time for parents and family members to meet their student’s teachers and become familiar with the expectations that are required for a student to be successful. Parents and family members were also invited to attend Pastries with Parents events on September 12 or 20. The Pastries with Parents events provide an opportunity for parents, family members, and students to mingle with students and staff to develop relationships. In addition to these events, our school’s Facebook page features a different department each month to assist the community in learning more about our staff.

Sixth Grade Orientation was held for four days in August of 2018, and provided students the opportunity to become familiar with the campus, administrators, counselors, and teachers.

Two Back-to-School events for all Tarkanian students, parents, and family members were held on August 6 (6th graders) and 8 (7th and 8th graders). These events were another opportunity for students, parents, and family members to become familiar with the school, receive a preliminary schedule, learn about Infinite Campus, apply for free or reduced lunch, and meet the administrators, counselors, and teachers. Families also had the option to pay course fees and purchase yearbooks and PE clothes.

Tarkanian Middle School is partnering with the Truancy Diversion Program to inform parents and family members of the importance of students attending school regularly. This program is designed to provide families with interventions and supports to assist them with improving attendance by getting students to class on a daily basis. More information on this, and other programs, can be found in the monthly newsletters and on the school's website.

Tarkanian Middle School will include parents and family members in supporting the academic achievement of students by maintaining consistent and clear communication with families. Tarkanian Middle School administration and staff will provide assistance to parents and family members, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the state's academic content and achievement standards, state and local assessments, proficiency level targets, the school's curriculum, and the requirements of Title I. In addition, parents and family members will be invited to a "Preparing Students for Academic Success" night, scheduled for spring 2019.

Tarkanian Middle School administration and staff will also assist parents and family members, as appropriate, with how to monitor student academic progress and how to work with school staff to improve the achievement of their student. The school will also communicate with parents and family members through monthly newsletters, grade day reports, and parent-teacher conferences. Tarkanian Middle School will inform parents and family members regarding potential retention using progress reports, quarterly grade reports, and through two-way communication from teachers and counselors.

Tarkanian Middle School will have the following documents available in the school office and on its website: School Performance Framework, School Performance Plan, Title I Budget, Strategic Budget, and this Parent and Family Engagement.

The Tarkanian Middle School administration, with the assistance of parents, will educate the staff in: (1) the value and utility of contributions of parents and family members, (2) how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents and family members as equal partners, (3) how to implement and coordinate parent programs, and (4) how to build ties between parents and family members and the school.

The administration will ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to parents and family members in an understandable and

uniform format, including alternate formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents and family members can understand.

The administration will provide reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities as parents may request. These requests can be made in person, at monthly PAC or SOT meetings or by contacting the school directly.

Tarkanian Middle School teachers will provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment enabling students to meet the state academic standards.

Tarkanian administration and staff will offer family involvement activities in the school that will include opportunities for parents and family members to volunteer and be involved in school activities. Parents and family members will be encouraged to provide home support for their student's education through use of the Infinite Campus Parent Portal and online textbooks (mathematics and English language arts). Parents and family members can participate in school decision-making by attending Parent Advisory Committee, School Organizational Team, and Title I meetings. Parents are invited to attend sporting events and academic events throughout the school year.

To the extent feasible and appropriate, the administration will coordinate and integrate family involvement activities such as family resource centers that encourage and support parents and family members in more fully participating in the education of their children. The administration will also provide reasonable support for family involvement activities as parents and family members may request (i.e. comment or suggestion sheets).