

Policy Concerning School and Family Relations Goals

To establish and achieve common educational and social-emotional goals for our students, Nuestro Mundo Public Charter School aims to foster relationships with families that encourage cooperation between students' homes and the school. For the purpose of this policy, the school abides by the definition of family as including traditional and non-traditional caregivers and other supportive adults in a child's life.¹

While families are individually responsible for their children, Nuestro Mundo Public Charter School provides direct educational services to the students within its charge. Consistent with these responsibilities, and as appropriate, school staff will consult with families about student progress and achievement, student development, and proposed plans to enhance them.

Additionally, Nuestro Mundo Public Charter School strongly encourages family involvement in its educational programs and activities, including regular communication with school administration, teachers, and staff, as well as through the school volunteer program. Involvement is also encouraged through other opportunities for participation in school activities and programs, such as serving on the School's independent governing body, the Board of Directors.

The goal of family involvement is to develop a partnership between home and school that facilitates academic success.

Nuestro Mundo is committed to:

- Building a bridge between home and school cultures;
- Ensuring smooth transitions between school and home; and
- Creating a welcoming environment for all students and families

Nuestro Mundo Public Charter School recognizes that the involvement of families is essential for academic growth and encourages all families to:

¹ Council of State Governments Justice Center's *Juvenile Justice Research-to- Practice Implementation Resources: Family Engagement and Involvement* tool (2019)

- Become aware of what their child is learning;
- Ask any member of the Nuestro Mundo Public Charter School staff, administration, and/or Board of Directors about their child's education;
- Advocate to any member of the Nuestro Mundo Public Charter School staff, administration, and/or Board of Directors for their child's individual needs;
- Support their child's bilingual education;
- Participate and/or volunteer in school events and activities

The developers of the Family Engagement Inventory (FEI) and the NCMHJJ have identified additional strategies for enhancing family engagement.

These strategies include:

- *Including at the level of the Board of Directors, inviting family members to serve on planning or advisory groups to provide input and offer perspective on policy or procedural change*
- *Facilitating the health of the extended family system and non-traditional caregiver families (e.g., extended family, family friends, foster parents, etc.)*
- *Providing relevant and local resource referrals, psychoeducation, and helpful interventions that are relevant and helpful*
- *Providing diverse volunteer opportunities for families based on family knowledge and interests*

Nuestro Mundo strives toward this enhancement and eliminates structural barriers by:

- Staffing the position of a Family Engagement Coordinator
- Reserving positions on the Academic Oversight Committee for a minimum of three representatives from Nuestro Mundo families, open to all
- Holding regular family fun events (see the calendar in Appendix A)
- Communicating daily with families through the Class Dojo website/app

- Communicating on a weekly basis with families through a newsletter
- Holding family conferences twice a year
- Conducting Family needs assessments and interviews that include questions to determine how families want to be involved in the school
- Sharing a Student Family Handbook at the beginning of each school year
- Requiring that families sign a Title I Family School Compact (see the compact in Appendix B)
- Involving families in the Family Engagement Policy annual review through virtual meetings, Google Form surveys, and Board-level engagement
- **Providing opportunities for families to engage in school-level volunteering activities from the classroom to the Board of Directors**
- Meeting with families in domestic or community settings as appropriate
- Reserving Board seats for parents of current students of the school