



-THE LEARNING CENTER FOR THE DEAF-		
EEC Criterion Reference	DESE Criterion Reference 15.1 Policy & Procedures Manual	Program: All
POLICY: Parent and Student Involvement		
Regulation(s): 603 CMR 18.05 (4)(a)		
CEASD STANDARD	COA STANDARD	NEASC STANDARD
Date of Adoption/Revision: June 2022		Page 1 of 2

POLICY STATEMENT

The Learning Center for the Deaf (TLC) through its two school programs, Marie Philip School and Walden School, is committed to actively engaging family members in our community and obtaining their input in all departments of the school. TLC’s Parent Advisory Group was established to allow parents and caregivers a forum to provide perspectives on school matters of health, education, and safety to the Superintendent, Family Liaison, and other school leaders.

TO WHOM APPLICABLE

Parents and caregivers of students attending the Marie Philip School and Walden School.

IMPLEMENTATION

Parent Involvement

A founding principle of the schools, which remains today, is that parents/caregivers know their children best and will be supported as equal and critical partners in the education of their children at the Marie Philip School and Walden School. Parents/caregivers are essential members of all IEP teams. To this end, the schools include parents/caregivers and families to advise us on school matters.. In addition to planning for their children, parents/caregivers are included in important school-wide changes, projects of special interest, and other relevant areas that impact their child.

There are three organizational structures or activities that specifically involve parents/guardians in school-wide planning, information sharing, and/or decision-making.

These are:

- The Parent Advisory Group
- The Learning Center Parent Association
- Annual Parent Surveys

The Parent Advisory Group

The Learning Center has had an active Parent Advisory Group (PAG) since 2001. The PAG, which meets three times a year with the Superintendent, Family Liaison, and other school leaders, is open to all families in the schools. Schedules for PAG meetings are announced in advance.

The following is the mission of the Parent Advisory Group:

- The Parent Advisory Group helps to identify student and family needs and concerns within the school policies related to health, education, and safety.
- The parents/caregivers who attend meetings provide valuable recommendations to the Administrators.



In an effort to support attendance at the PAG in-person meetings, child care can be provided to offer support to parents/caregivers who have young children and/or who live a great distance away and otherwise would be unable to attend due to child care needs. Topics vary throughout the year and are often suggested by parents/caregivers.

The Learning Center Parent Association

The Learning Center Parents Association (TLCPA) organizes social, educational, extra-curricular and fundraising activities for children and families. This parent-led group organizes many events for families throughout the year and also raises funds to support the students and recognize educational staff.

Parent Surveys

TLC conducts periodic parent/caregiver surveys to seek feedback and information from parents throughout all areas of the school. These surveys are conducted on-line (and mailed in print, as well) and are translated into Spanish, Portuguese, and interpreted into ASL.

American Sign Language Classes

American Sign Language Classes (ASL) are encouraged and offered to parents/caregivers of students enrolled in any TLC program. Recognizing that parents are their child's primary teachers, these weekly classes are taught by native signers to empower parents to be able to confidently communicate with their child(ren) in their child's first language. All levels of instruction are offered free to any parent/caregiver of students in any TLC program.

Student Involvement

The MPS/WS secondary programs have a Student Body Government (SBG) as well as a Junior National Association of the Deaf organization (Jr NAD). These organizations have elected officers. Students, through any of their elected officers, can offer direct feedback and ask for specific information from the Education Leaders (principals, assistant principals, and supervisor) and Senior Education Team (Education Directors and Superintendent).

All TLC students who are 14 years of age or older are invited to and encouraged to participate in their own IEP meetings. They become active members of the TEAM that helps plan their educational programming. Students who are 18 years of age or older have the right to sign their own IEPs.

MPS and WS secondary students also participate in student surveys, providing critical feedback to the Administration.