Parental Involvement

The Magellan Charter School Board of Directors ("MCS" or "Board") recognizes the critical role of parents in the education of their children and in the school. The Board is committed to developing policies to effectively involve parents in school and their children's education in accordance with N.C. Gen. Stat. 115C-76.20(b)(3), and hereby, directs school administrators to develop programs that will promote and support parental involvement in student learning and achievement at school and at home and encourage successful progress toward graduation.

Each parent is encouraged to learn about the educational program, the educational goals and objectives of Magellan Charter School, and his or her own child's progress. The Board also encourages parents to participate in their children's education and in activities designed by school personnel to involve them, such as parent conferences, in order to foster effective teacher and parent communication.

For purposes of this policy, "parent" is a person who has legal custody of a child, including a natural parent, adoptive parent, or legal guardian. For purposes of this policy, "child" is a person less than 18 years of age who has not been emancipated under North Carolina law.

I. Parental Involvement Program

The Board directs staff to develop a plan for the school's parental involvement program to include, at a minimum, efforts to enhance parental involvement by:

A. Informing parents of their legal rights and responsibilities with regards to their child's education.

B. Providing a parent's guide for student achievement annually to parents to provide information parents need to know about their child's educational progress and how they can help their child to succeed in school.

C. Developing policies to effectively involve parents in school and their child's education.

D. MCS shall publish its parent involvement program on the school's website.

II. Parent Communication, Participation, and Conferences

A. Communication with Parents

The Board requires parents to be notified promptly if school personnel suspect that a criminal offense has been committed against the parent's child, unless notification would impede an investigation by law enforcement or the child welfare agency. The requirements of this policy do not authorize a parent to engage in unlawful conduct, abuse, or neglect.

The Head of School must effectively communicate to parents the manner in which textbooks are used to implement the school's curricular objectives. Any parent

interested in learning more about their child's course of study or the source of any supplementary instructional materials should contact the Head of School for more information. If a parent would like to inspect and review particular instructional materials, the parent should make such a request in writing to the Assistant Administrator.

The Head of School also shall ensure that information about the nature and purpose of all clubs and activities, curricular and extracurricular, offered at the school is available at the school's main office and/or on the school's website. Any parent who would like information about such clubs or activities should contact the school's main office and/or visit the school's website.

B. Parent Participation at School

The Board encourages parents to engage in activities at their child's school. Parents are welcome to visit the school, and, if interested, are urged to participate in school volunteer organizations and programs, such as the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and athletic booster clubs.

III. Parental Notification

A. Parent Guide for Student Achievement

In accordance with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-76.30, Magellan Charter School shall provide to parents, students, and school personnel, at the beginning of each school year, a parent guide for student achievement that meets all of the following requirements:

1. Includes, at a minimum, the State Board of Education requirements developed as provided in subsection (a) of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-76.30 and all Board policies and Chief Administrative Officer regulations related to parent involvement, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-76.30.

2. is understandable to students and parents;

3. is provided in writing to the parent; and

4. is discussed at the beginning of each school year in meetings of students, parents, and teachers.

B. Additional Annual Notifications

The Head of School or designee shall annually notify parents of the following information to the extent that it has not already been provided to parents as part of the parent guide for student achievement:

1. parental rights related to student records;

2. parental rights related to student surveys;

3. the approximate dates of any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is: (a) required as a condition of attendance, (b) administered and scheduled in advance by the school administration, and (c) not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of students;

4. student behavior policies, the Code of Student Conduct, and school standards and rules;

5. the permissible use of seclusion and restraint in school;

6. MCS's Bullying, Harassment, and Discrimination Policy

7. MCS's Student and Parent Grievance Policy;

8. the dates of the system-wide and state-mandated tests that students will be required to take during that school year, how the results from the tests will be used, and whether each test is required by the State Board of Education or by Magellan Charter School;

9. grading practices that will be followed at the school;

10. available opportunities and the enrollment process for students to take advanced courses and information explaining the value of taking advanced courses;

11. a clear and concise explanation of the North Carolina testing and accountability system that includes all information required by federal law;

12. a report containing information about the school, including, but not limited to:

    a. the following information both in the aggregate and disaggregated by category: student achievement, graduation rates, performance on other school quality and/or student success indicators, the progress of students toward meeting long-term goals established by the state, student performance on measures of school climate and safety, and, as available, the rate of enrollment in post-secondary education;

    b. the performance of MCS on academic assessments as compared to the state as a whole and the performance of each school on academic assessments as compared to the state and MCS as a whole;

    c. the percentage and number of students who are:

        i. assessed,

        ii. assessed using alternate assessments,

        iii. English learners achieving proficiency;

d. the per pupil expenditures of federal, state, and local funds; and

e. teacher qualifications;

13. the grade earned by the school on the most recent annual report card issued for it by the State Board of Education if the grade was a D or F;

14. supportive services available to students, including health services;

15. resources for information on the importance of student health and other available resources for parents, including the following information on:

    a. available immunizations and vaccinations including (1) a recommended immunization schedule in accordance with the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations; and (2) information about meningococcal meningitis and influenza, including the causes, symptoms, and vaccines, how the diseases are spread, and places where parents and guardians may obtain additional information and vaccinations for their children as required by G.S. 115C-375.4; and

    b. for parents of MCS students in grades 5 through 8, information about cervical cancer, cervical dysplasia, and human papillomavirus, including the causes and symptoms of these diseases, how they are transmitted, how they may be prevented by vaccination, including the benefits and possible side effects of vaccination, and places parents and guardians may obtain additional information and vaccinations for their children;

16. how to reach school officials in emergency situations during non-school hours;

17. information about and an application form for free and reduced price meals;

18. information about the availability and location of free summer food service program meals for students when school is not in session;

19. for parents of children with disabilities, procedural safeguards;

20. information on the availability of the asbestos management plan and planned or in-progress inspections, re-inspections, response actions, and post-response actions, including periodic re-inspection and surveillance activities;

21. education rights of homeless students;

22. the content and implementation of the local school wellness policy; their right to take four hours of unpaid leave from their jobs every year in order to volunteer in their child's school as stated in G.S. 95-28.3 ;

23. that Magellan Charter School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age, and that Magellan Charter School provides processes for resolving discrimination and harassment complaints;

24. that Magellan Charter School provides equal access to its facilities, programs, and activities to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups; and

25. the availability of and the process for requesting a waiver or reduction of student fees.

C. Opportunities to Withhold Consent/Opt Out Notifications

As a part of the annual notification described above, parents will be effectively notified that they may opt out of any of the following:

1. release of student directory information about their child for school purposes or to outside organizations;

2. release of their child's name, address, and telephone listing to military recruiters or institutions of higher education;

3. their child's participation in curricula related to (a) prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS; (b) avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy; or (c) reproductive health and safety education. To meet any review periods required by law, materials also may be made available for review at the front office;

4. their child's participation in academic or career guidance or personal or social counseling services of a generic nature offered to groups of students (e.g., peer relations strategies offered to all sixth graders). However, parental notification and permission are not required for: (a) short-duration academic, career, personal, or social guidance and counseling and crisis intervention that is needed to maintain order, discipline, or a productive learning environment; (b) student-initiated individual or group counseling targeted at a student's specific concerns or needs; and (c) counseling if child abuse or neglect is suspected;

5. Their child's participation in any protected information survey given as part of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System or National Youth Tobacco Survey;

6. their child's participation in any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is: (a) required as a condition of attendance; (b) administered and scheduled in advance by the school administration; and (c) not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of students;

7. the collection, disclosure, or use of their child's personal information for marketing purposes ; and

8. release of their child's free and reduced-price meal information to State Medicaid or State children's health insurance program (SCHIP).

Any parent or legal guardian who wishes to opt out/withhold consent must do so in writing after receiving notice. Otherwise, consent to the programs or activities is presumed. After the annual notification, the school is not required to provide further notice to the parent or legal guardian as to the manner in which student directory information is used, the curriculum is provided, or guidance programs are made available.

IV. Parental Permission Required/Opt-In Required

Written parental permission is required prior to the following activities:

A. the administration of medications to students by licensed healthcare practitioners (including the school nurse and nurse extender(s)) who are employees of or provide contract services to Magellan Charter School ;

B. the release of student records that are not considered directory information, unless the release is allowed or required by law;

C. off-campus trips;

D. students' participation in high-impact or high-risk sports or extracurricular activities, such as football or mountain climbing;

E. all decisions or actions as required by the IDEA with regard to providing special education or related services to students with disabilities;

F. certain health services, as required by law;

G. participation in a mental health assessment or mental health services under circumstances prescribed by federal law;

H. students' participation in programs or services that provide information about where to obtain contraceptives or abortion referral services;

I. students' participation in surveys that are conducted concerning protected information;

J. disclosure of students' free and reduced-price lunch eligibility information or eligibility status; and

K. students' access to the Internet.

V. Procedures for Parental Involvement in Student Health

A. Parent Notifications Regarding Student Physical and Mental Health

At the beginning of each school year, the Head of School or designee shall notify parents of (1) each health care service offered at their child's school and the means for parents to provide consent for any specific services; (2) acknowledgement that consenting to a health care service does not waive the parents' right to access their children's educational records or health records or to be notified of changes in their children's services or monitoring; and (3) the procedures to exercise the parental remedies for concerns related to student health provided by G.S. 115C-76.60 and described below in subsection V.F.

Before any student well-being questionnaire or health screening form is administered to students in third grade, the Head of School or designee shall provide parents with a copy of the questionnaire or form and shall inform parents of the means for parents to consent to the use of the questionnaire or form for their children.

The Head of School or designee shall notify parents of changes in services or monitoring related to their children's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being and the school's ability to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for their children prior to or contemporaneously with the changes being made. In addition, the Head of School or designee shall notify parents before any changes are made to the names or pronouns used for their children in school records or by school personnel.

No Magellan Charter School policy, procedure, or form will expressly or otherwise prohibit school employees from notifying parents about their children's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being or a change in related services or monitoring, nor will any Magellan Charter School policy, procedure, or form intentionally encourage or be designed in a manner that is reasonably likely to have the effect of encouraging any children to withhold from their parents information about their mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being or a change in related services or monitoring. School personnel shall not discourage or prohibit parental notification of and involvement in critical decisions affecting a student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being.

B. Discussions Related to Student Well-Being

In accordance with the rights of parents provided in Chapter 114A of the General Statutes, when issues of a student's well-being arise, school personnel shall encourage the student to discuss the issues with his or her parent. As appropriate, school personnel may facilitate discussions of such issues with parents.

C. Parent Access to Student Records

Parents will not be prohibited from accessing any of their children's education and health records created, maintained, or used by the Magellan Charter School , except as permitted by law.

D. Student Support Services Training

Student support services training developed or provided by Magellan Charter School to school personnel will adhere to student services guidelines, standards, and frameworks established by the Department of Public Instruction.

E. Instruction on Gender Identity, Sexual Activity, and Sexuality

Instruction on gender identity, sexual activity, or sexuality will not be included in the curriculum provided in kindergarten through fourth grade, regardless of whether the information is provided by school personnel or third parties. For purposes of this subsection, curriculum includes the standard course of study and support materials, locally developed curriculum, supplemental instruction, and textbooks and other supplementary materials, but does not include responses to student-initiated questions.

F. Remedies for Parental Concerns Related to Student Health

If a parent has a concern about Magellan Charter School 's procedure or practice under Part 4 of Article 7B of Chapter 115C, as described here in this policy, the parent should submit the concern in writing to the Assistant Administrator. The concern will be addressed in accordance with procedures developed by the Head of School.

VI. Parent Requests for Information

A parent may request in writing from the Assistant Administrator any of the information the parent has the right to access under Part 3 of Article 7B of Chapter 115C. The Assistant Administrator shall respond to the parent's written concern in accordance with the procedure developed by the Head of School.

VII. Community Services Available

A variety of community services are available to provide parents and families of students in Magellan Charter School with needed information, support, and resources, which are available in this document.

VIII. Reporting Requirements

By September 15 of each year, the Head of School or designee shall report to the State Board of Education parental involvement information as required by G.S. 115C-76.70.

Legal References: Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 12101 *et seq.*, 28 C.F.R. pt. 35; Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, 15 U.S.C. 2641, *et seq.*; Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. 7905, 34 C.F.R. 108.9; Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended, 20 U.S.C. 6301 *et seq.*, 34 C.F.R. pt. 200; Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, 34 C.F.R. pt. 99; Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400, *et seq.*; McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 11431, *et seq.*; National School Lunch Program, 42 U.S.C. 1751 *et seq.*, 7 C.F.R. 210.12, 7 C.F.R. pt. 245; Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, 20 U.S.C. 1232h, 34 C.F.R. pt. 98; Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 705(20), 794, 34 C.F.R. pt. 104; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d *et seq.*, 34 C.F.R. pt. 100; Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, 20 U.S.C.

1681 *et seq.*, 34 C.F.R. pt. 106; 20 U.S.C. 7908; G.S. 90-21.1, -21.10B; 95-28.3; 114A-10; 115C-47(47), -47(51), -47(54), -47(58), -76.1, -76.20, -76.25, -76.30, -76.35, -76.40, -76.45, -76.50, -76.55, -76.60, -76.65, -76.70, -81.25, -81.30, -81.36, -105.41, -109.1, -174.26(d), -307(c), -375.4, -390.2, -391.1, -402.15, -407.16; 16 N.C.A.C. 6D .0307.;