

Helen J. Stewart School

... where life is special

Clark County School District . . . 2375 E. Viking Road . . . Las Vegas, NV 89169
Telephone . . . (702) 799-5588 . . . Fax . . . (702) 799-5592
Dr. Patricia Schultz, Principal
Mr. Richard Fuller, Assistant Principal



Parent and Family Engagement Policy

The Parent and Family Engagement Policy (PFEP) was jointly developed and agreed upon by the Helen J. Stewart staff and the parents/guardians of students served in pursuant to Title I.

Helen J. Stewart (HJS) is a special school in the Clark County School District (CCSD) that serves students with significant intellectual disabilities. Most of the students have secondary disabilities that include autism, health impairments, deafness, blindness, and physical disabilities.

HJS convened a School Organizational Team Meeting on September 10, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. and the annual Title I meeting on September 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. to accommodate family's schedules and evaluate the PFEP. The policy, developed by the parents/guardians, group home staff, teachers, and administrators, will be distributed in an understandable and uniform format and to the extent possible, in a language parents can understand. The PFEP, as well as the annual Title I meeting presentation, is available to the community, through the school's website.

While computers are accessible for parental use, the results from the Districtwide Survey indicated data were not presented for HJS as the groups were less than ten. As shared at the annual Title I meeting, these data were suppressed due to FERPA regulations. Overall CCSD rated over 90% in the areas of families feeling welcome at the school, feeling involved, as well as feeling as an equal partner. Through school-wide events, families have expressed the same feelings and experiences. HJS will continue to provide opportunities to ensure families feel like an integral part of their child's education.

HJS will involve parents/guardians in an organized, ongoing, and timely way to plan, review, and improve the Title I program, School Performance Plan, and PFEP. Parents will have ongoing opportunities in person, at parent events as well as the School Organization Team meetings to provide input, develop action steps, and review school-wide plans.

The Educational Involvement Accords are integrated into the registration process through Infinite Campus. Parents/Guardians must review Accords prior to completing their child's registration. Administrators and teachers have access to the Accords when needed for parent conferences, Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings, or other parent/school occasions. Administration also includes the Accords into staff communication to ensure each student is afforded high-quality instruction as well as families receiving frequent reports not only on achievement, but behaviors and daily living skill improvement.

While HJS continues to locate resources and develop specialized partnerships for our students and families, the administration and staff will:

1. Provide assistance to parents/guardians and group home staff, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the student's Individual Education Program (IEP), state academic content and achievement standards, assessments, the requirements of Title I, how to monitor their child's progress, and how to work with school staff to improve the individual achievement level of their child/client.
2. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment enabling students to meet IEP goals/benchmarks as well as the task-analyzed state academic standards.
3. Offer parent involvement activities in the school that will include:
 - a. Parent education classes
 - b. Strategies for parents to provide home support for their child's education
 - c. Opportunities for parents to participate in school decision-making
 - d. Effective communication between the school and parents/guardians

Family plays a primary role in a child's education and HJS respects and honors traditions unique to cultural practices and beliefs. With regard to professional development, the administration will, with assistance from parents, educate teachers and staff in the value and utility of parental contributions, how to reach out, communicate with, and work as equal partners. Ongoing opportunities, such as Come Have Lunch with Us, fosters such engagement.

HJS prides itself on the ongoing, open communication with families and group homes. Communication with parents will include, but not limited to home notebooks, picture reflection sheets, telephone calls, texts, emails, flyers, conferences, IEP meetings, website information, ParentLink messages, as well as Infinite Campus.

The school and parents cultivate relationships with additional members of the community in order to promote and increase educational opportunities for children. Together, parents, educators, and community members join efforts toward identifying and promoting community resources and innovative programs for strengthening Helen J. Stewart School, families, and student achievement. HJS has partnered with the Kasner Family Foundation to provide additional funding for students to participate in Community-Based Instruction. The school's website lists multiple community resources for parents to access.

HJS staff is available to parents/guardians and group home members for conferences to address requests regarding additional family engagement opportunities to assist with the specific needs of their child/client.