

LEAP Academy University Charter School
Title 1A Parent and Parent Involvement Meeting
September 19, 2023
Start Time- 5:30 PM

The yearly Title 1 A Parent Meeting commenced at 5:35 PM at the LEAP High School Campus in Camden, NJ. Mrs. Tugba Hoguet. Parents entered the lecture hall and signed in prior to taking a seat. Each attendee was provided with a welcome letter, review of attendance requirements, the Parent-School Compact, and suggestions for improving Parent Engagement at LEAP. Miscellaneous refreshments were served. Over thirty parents signed up for this event in advance. A PowerPoint presentation was cued up on the big screen and Ms. Hoguet and Ms. Cruz welcomed all those in attendance. Throughout the meeting, Mrs. Hoguet introduced each slide in English and Ms. Cruz provided immediate Spanish translations. Translations were also provided in complete sentences (in real time). under the PowerPoint.

What is a Title I school?

At 5:36 Mrs. Hoguet welcomed the parents to the meeting. Mrs. Hoguet described Title 1 Part A. "Title I was passed in 1965 under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). It is the largest federal assistance program for our nation's schools." Essentially, Title I schools receive extra funding from the federal government. Funding is used to identify students experiencing academic difficulties and to provide assistance in need of help, purchase additional staff, programs, materials, and/or supplies; and conduct parent and family engagement meetings, trainings, events, and/or activities. Finally, she shared, LEAP is a Title 1 School. Prior to moving on, Mrs. Hoguet reviewed the agenda for the evening.

At 5:40, Mrs. Hoguet took a short break, as many more parents entered the meeting from the parent ESL workshop that concluded just a few minutes ago.

What are my rights?

The meeting resumed at 5:43. Mrs. Hoguet introduces the Director of Family Engagement-Ms. Cruz, the Assistant for the Parent Office (Ms. Munoz), and herself (ELL, Special Education, and Title 1 Director). Mrs. Hoguet told the families and parents they have a right, by law, to: 1. be involved in decisions made at both the school and district level; 2. be provided with information on your child's level of achievement on tests in reading/language arts, writing, mathematics, and science; 3. request and receive information on the qualifications of your child's teacher and paraprofessionals who are working with your child and; 4. request opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions about the education of your child. The school is required to respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible. After each slide Ms. Cruz translated the content into Spanish. Mrs. Hoguet continued to the next slide as there were not questions.

What can Title I funds be used for? And How does LEAP use Title I funds?

At 5:49, the slide displayed the total funding provided to LEAP by the federal government and how it was being used. Mrs. Hoguet said, "In 2023-2024, our school was allotted \$1,307,000 in funding. As part of Title 1, LEAP developed a Schoolwide Plan and we anticipate spending our funds on the following:

“Supplemental staff such as Basic Skills Instruction, Paraprofessionals, College Access, ESL, and Math; Programs/Materials; Rutgers Tutoring, STEM Summer Enrichment, SAT Prep, Instructional Software, Schoology, Supplemental Materials; and Professional Development: New Staff Orientation, News ELA, Schoology, PowerSchool.”

From a curricular prospective, Mrs. Hoguet communicated, “the federal government also pays for supplemental programs such as: Title 1 Summer Learning Academy, StemScopes, Rosen Level Up (K-3), and Imagine Learning (K-12).” Prior to switching to the next slide, one parent inquired about SAT Preparation at LEAP. Mrs. Hoguet described the program and the benefits to all children.

What are our schoolwide program goals?

At 5:53 Mrs. Hoguet provided details about the five educational goals for LEAP in 2023-2024:

- Improve ELA Achievement
- Improve Math Proficiency
- Expand Dual Enrollment College Opportunities
- Expand STEM Opportunities
- Implement High Quality Professional Development to Staff

How is parent and family engagement funded?

Regarding parent and family engagement, Mrs. Hoguet communicated, “any district with a Title I allocation exceeding \$500,000 is required by law to set aside 1% of the total Title I allocation for parent and family engagement” at 7:19 pm. In 2022-2023, LEAP received \$13,070 in parent and family engagement funding. During the school year, the parent and family engagement funds will be used for: Parent and Family Engagement Meeting and Events such as the Annual Title 1 Meeting, Special Education and ESL Parent Meetings, PTA, and Parent Classes. She mentioned that LEAP also purchases materials and supplies.

What is the Parent and Family Engagement Policy?

At 5:58, the next slide addressed the policy mentioned above. Mrs. Cruz stated, “these plans address how the district and school will implement the parent and family engagement requirements of ESSA.” Mrs. Cruz summarized the policy as well as the provided document.

The LEAP policy includes all of the items listed below:

- how parents and families can be involved in decision-making and activities;
- how parent and family engagement funds are being used;
- how information and training will be provided to families; and
- how the school will build capacity in families and staff for strong parent and family engagement.

Finally, Mrs. Hoguet said, “as a Title I parent or family member, you have the right to be involved in the development of these plans.”

The district Parent and Family Engagement Policy can be found by clicking the link below:

<https://www.leapacademycharter.org/parent-engagement-center/>

What is the School-Parent Compact?

During the next segment of the meeting, Mrs. Hoguet shared the purpose of the School-Parent Compact. “A school-parent compact is a written commitment that outlines how the entire school community – teachers, families, and students will share the responsibility for improved academic achievement.”

At 6:02 Mrs. Cruz mentioned the LEAP School-Parent Compact describes how the school will:

- provide high-quality curriculum and instruction;
- hold parent-teacher conferences, annually in elementary schools;
- provide parents with reports on their child’s progress;
- provide parents reasonable access to staff.
- provide parents opportunities to volunteer; and
- ensure regular two-way meaningful communication between family members and staff, to the extent practicable, in a language that all family members can understand.

Mrs. Hoguet summarized the details listed on the slide and emphasized, “You, as a Title I parent or family member, have the right to be involved in the development of the compact.” Mrs. Cruz fielded questions from parents regarding things that work and things that can be improved. Mrs. Hoguet encouraged the parent to share their concerns with child’s teachers and administrators so that they can take care of their specific concerns. Finally, the compact can be found in your email, on the counter in the lobby, and on the LEAP website.

What curriculum does our school use?

At 6:05, Mrs. Hoguet progressed through a series of academic slides. She mentioned all LEAP curriculum guides follow the New Jersey Standards. These standards provide a common set of expectations for what students will know and be able to do at the end of a grade for each subject area. “New Jersey's academic standards form the framework for everything taught at LEAP Academy University Charter School,” she stated.

For more information about New Jersey’s academic standards, see:

<https://www.nj.gov/education/cccs/2020/>

What tests will my child be taking?

Mrs. Hoguet described the standardized tests that are given to all children that attend the LEAP Academy University Charter School at 6:07 PM. These tests include: “NWEA MAPS Assessments (Quarterly Benchmark Assessments to Determine Growth); NJSLA- ELA and Math (Required by all schools in the State of New Jersey); and the NAEP (National Assessment of Progress as a

Country).” Mrs. Hoguet stressed that we need your help in supporting these tests. They are very important to your child and their academic growth. We monitor the data to make academic and placement decisions each year. Mrs. Cruz will send you a recorded call with parental recommendations prior to each assessment date. Remember, the doors open at 7:15 AM for breakfast and it is very important on testing days.

How can I be involved? and Who can I contact for help?

At 6:15. Mrs. Hoguet and Ms. Cruz passionately communicated, “We need you!” Research has proven that family engagement in education has more impact on student achievement than any other factor. She encouraged the parents to do the following: To get involved at LEAP; To get involved with the Parent and Family Engagement Policy; To get involved with the School Parent Compact; and to get involved in the PTA, Committees, and to Attend the Parent Classes offered at LEAP. Mrs. Hoguet fielded a few questions regarding “getting involved.” Parents were encouraged to visit www.LEAPAcademycharter.org for lists of events.

Parents were encouraged to reach out to Ms. Cruz if interested in getting involved at LEAP:

Macruz@leap.Rutgers.edu
856-614-5084

Finally, Mrs. Hoguet and Ms. Cruz further encouraged parents to call when they have questions:

- For general questions, call the front office at: (856) 614-5600:
 - STEM Elementary School: ext. 2088
 - STEM: ext. 7103
 - STEM Junior High: ext. 5094
 - STEAM High School: ext. 5640
- To reach our Director of Parent Engagement, Ms. Maria Cruz, please call (856) 614-5084.
- To reach your child’s teacher, call the front office or view our staff directory at each building.

At 6:17, the parent question and answer session commenced. One parent asked about the availability of professional development. Teachers have training both in house and out of district, said Mrs. Hoguet. Opportunities are provided to teachers. Another question was asked, do teachers have to have a masters? Mrs. Hoguet responded teachers need to have their NJ Credential and NJ Certificate. Our website contains a display of the certification status of all of our teachers: bachelors, masters, and PHD. The next question was, who has to take the NAEP? Mrs. Cruz informed the parents that the UDOE selects the school and the grade level that needs to take the test. Next, is there a fee for the summer program? The summer program is provided free of charge to all students. Next, what is the availability of the restrooms on each floor of the HS or are they always directed downstairs to floor number 1? Mrs. Hoguet indicated the question is a principal one. She did indicate that students who need accommodations require a doctor’s note. Mrs. Cruz indicated students have been assigned to specific floors for security and accountability reasons. If a student needs an accommodation, we allow them to use the elevator. Students-parents with specific issues are encouraged to reach out to the principal to resolve individual conflicts. Finally, a parent asked for an overview of STEM and ELL programs for

students. Mrs. Hoguet shared information on the FAB Lab program and ESL instruction for students K-12. "We train all teachers to work effectively with ESL students at LEAP." When students enroll at LEAP, parents complete the home language survey. When completed, Mrs. Hoguet reviews the home surveys and all students are tested. This is how we determine if a student is eligible for ESL services. Mrs. Cruz reminded the parents they can come to ESL classes twice a week here at LEAP. One parent shared, my daughter spoke no English when we came here and in one year she can speak. The parent Q and A concluded at 6:27 PM.

Mrs. Hoguet and Ms. Cruz thanked the parents and their families for attending this evening. Parents were encouraged to enjoy the miscellaneous refreshments provided for the meeting.

The Parent Title 1 A Meeting concluded at 6:40 PM.