

Family and Parent Engagement Center

- **Maria Cruz**
- *Wellness & Parent Engagement Director*
- 856-614-5084
- mcruz@leap.rutgers.edu

- **Lorna Quintana**
- *Coordinator of Parent Engagement,*
- 856-614-2088 EXT 5645
- lquintana@leap.rutgers.edu

K-5 Administration

- **Samantha C. Rodriguez**
- Principal
- P: 856-614-2088
- E: samantha.rodriguez@leap.rutgers.edu

- **Nancy K. Torres**
- Vice Principal
- P: 856-614-5603
- E: ntorres@leap.rutgers.edu

Junior High Administration

- **Dr. Damiso Josey**
- Principal, 6–8
- P: 856.614.5094
- E: djosey@leap.rutgers.edu

- **Dr. Kamika Dixon**
- Vice Principal, 6-8
- E: kdixon@leap.rutgers.edu

STEAM Senior High School Administration

- **Dr. Kwanza Cogdell**

- Principal, 9-12
- 856-614-5640 Ext 700414
- E:kcogdell@leap.rutgers.edu

- **Angiana Thompson**

- Vice Principal 9-12
- E:athompson@leap.rutgers.edu

Christine Skalka

Assistant Director of Early College

E:cskalka@leap.rutgers.edu

Welcome

The Elementary and Secondary School Act, Title 1 Part A, requires that each Title 1 School hold an annual meeting for the parents and families whose children receive Title 1 services. During this meeting we will:

- Inform you of the school's participation in Title 1
- Explain the requirements of Title 1
- Explain your rights and opportunities as parents

Today's Agenda

- What is a Title I school?
- What are my rights?
- What can Title I funds be used for?
- How does our school use Title I funds?
- What are our schoolwide program goals?
- How is parent and family engagement funded?
- What is the Parent and Family Engagement Policy?
- What is the School-Parent Compact?
- What curriculum does our school use?
- What tests will my child be taking?
- How can I get involved?
- Who can I contact for help?

What is a Title I school?

- 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.
- Title I schools receive extra funding (Title I dollars) from the federal government. These dollars are used to:
 - identifying students experiencing academic difficulties and providing assistance;
 - purchasing programs, materials, and/or supplies; and
 - Conducting parent and family engagement meetings, trainings, events, and/or activities.
- **LEAP is a Title 1 Charter School**

What are my rights?

- The families and parents of Title I students have a right, by law, to:
 - be involved in decisions made at both the school and district level;
 - be provided with information on your child's level of achievement on tests in reading/language arts, writing, mathematics, and science;
 - request and receive information on the qualifications of your child's teacher and paraprofessionals who are working with your child and
 - 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.

How do we use Title I funds?

- At LEAP, we utilize Title I funds for:
 - additional teachers and paraprofessionals,
 - basic skills instruction,
 - additional training for school staff,
 - extra time for instruction (before and after school programs, summer enrichment),
 - parent and family engagement activities, and
 - a variety of supplemental instructional materials, equipment, and technology.

How does our school use Title I funds?

- In **2025-2026**, our school was allotted **\$1,646,000** in Title I funding.
- We developed a **Schoolwide Plan**, which means we anticipate spending our funds on the following:
 - Supplemental staff:
 - **BSI, Paraprofessionals, College Access, ESL, and Math**
 - Programs/Materials:
 - **Tutoring, Summer Enrichment, SAT Prep, Instructional Software, Supplemental Materials, Technology**
 - Professional Development:
 - **New Staff Orientation, New Technology, and Literacy Curriculum**

What are our schoolwide program goals for 2025-2026?

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

How is parent and family engagement funded?

- Any district with a Title I allocation exceeding \$500,000 is required by law to set aside 1% of its Title I allocation for parent and family engagement.

How is parent and family engagement funded?

- In 2025-2026, LEAP received \$16,460 in parent and family engagement funding. We plan to use these funds for:
 - Parent and Family Engagement Meeting and Events
 - Annual Meeting
 - PTA
 - Parent Classes
 - Materials/Supplies
 - Materials and supplies (food and supplies for meetings, and childcare)

What is a Parent and Family Engagement Policy?

- These plans address how the district and school will implement the parent and family engagement requirements of ESSA. Components should include:
 - 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.
- As a Title I parent or family member, you have the right to be involved in the development of these plans.

What is a Parent and Family Engagement Policy?

- The district Parent and Family Engagement Policy can be found on our Website
- <https://www.leapacademycharter.org/title-1/>
- Copies Distributed During Meeting

What is a 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.
- The compact must describe 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 family members can understand.
- You, as a Title I parent or family member, have the right to be involved in the development of the compact.

What is a School-Parent Compact?

- The school-parent compact will be shared During the Meeting and Found at:
- <https://www.leapacademycharter.org/title-1/>
- In addition, the compact can be found here:
- <https://www.leapacademycharter.org/title-1/>

What curriculum does our school use?

- The **New Jersey 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.

What tests will my child be taking?

- **NWEA MAP Assessments**
 - ✓ Quarterly Assessments to Determine Student Growth
- **NJSLA- ELA and Math**
 - ✓ Required by all schools in the State of New Jersey
- **NAEP**
 - ✓ National Assessment of Progress for the United States of America

How can I be involved?

- We need you! Research has proven that family engagement in education has more impact on student achievement than any other factor.
- To get involved at LEAP.
- To get involved with the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.
- To get involved with the School Parent Compact.
- **We Value Your Opinion!**

How can I be involved?

- We Need Your Help by Encouraging Attendance and the following:
 - monitoring grades and schoolwork on the online system;
 - attending school events and meetings, such as the PTA;
 - volunteering at your school;
 - reading school newsletters and checking the LEAP website for examples of learning activities families can do with students at home.
 - attending parent classes offered at LEAP

Who can I contact for help?

- For general questions, call the front office at: (856) 614-5600
- To reach the principals call:
- To reach the Director of Student Support Services for school counselors call: (856) 614-5792
- To reach our family liaison, Ms. Maria Cruz call: (856) 614-5084
- To reach your child's teacher, call the front office or view our staff directory at: www.leapacademycharter.org

WE JUST WANT TO SAY...

THANK YOU!