2026-27 Parent & Family Engagement Policy

Young Women's Leadership Academy

Mission: The mission of the Young Women's Prep Network (YWPN) and the Young Women's Leadership Academy is to support single sex, college preparatory, public education in Texas that will give young women in urban schools the academic skills to achieve success in college and life by thinking critically, leading purposefully, and living active, healthy and responsible lives.

Vision: Our vision is to graduate all of our young women and prepare them for personal, academic, and social-emotional success in higher education and life as they pursue their passions and happiness.

Title I, Part A Sec. 1116(b)(1), (c)(1) & (e)(5)

Our school participates in the Title I, Part A program as described in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I, Part A schools receive funding based on the number of identified low income students. During the first 9 weeks of school, we will hold at least two Title I meetings, and the principal will share information about the Title I program, budget, and services provided to our students, along with the rights of parents.

YWLA will advertise these meetings through email, social media and the Cardinal Monthly newsletter. The meetings will take place on September 10th, 2025 (middle school) and September 11th, 2025 (high school) at 5:30 p.m. in the YWLA auditorium and on September 12th, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. vitually via teams.

Family Engagement Program Sec. 1116(b)(1), (c)(3)

Family engagement is essential for student success, and our family engagement program is described in this family engagement policy. This policy was developed in collaboration with families and will be reviewed annually each spring. It is available to the community on the school's website. The policy is available in English and Spanish. YWLA distributes this policy through the campus website, during Open House and via the Cardinal Monthly. Copies are also available in the main office.

Family Engagement Budget Sec. 1116(c)(2)

At least 1% of the Title I, Part A school budget, developed in collaboration with families, is set aside for family engagement activities outlined in the family engagement policy. Activities might include guest speakers, conferences, transportation, healthy snacks, and supplies. All activities and use of funds can be reviewed by the Texas Education Agency upon request to ensure they meet the needs of the family engagement program.

Family Participation & Involvement Sec. 1116(c)(3),(e)(1),(2),(3),(4)

YWLA also has a parent/teacher/student organization, and all families are encouraged to participate. The PTSA meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of each month with 1 in person meeting per 9 weeks and the remaining being virtual. For more information, contact any member of the board at ywlaptsaboard@gmail.com

Family members are also encouraged to volunteer at least 10 hours in the classroom/school through Parent Councils, as an Advisory Parent Team representative, and attending the monthly Cardinal Connections. Additionally, there are volunteer opportunities listed in the Cardinal Monthly Newsletter. The volunteer application and additional volunteer information are available on the SAISD website.

Families are encouraged to participate in and provide feedback for our family engagement program by participating in the annual evaluation, policy review, family meetings, and parent and student surveys Evaluation, Review & Revise meetings will be advertised through email, the Cardinal Monthly newsletter and social media - Facebook: SAISD Young Women's Leadership Academy and Instagram: SAISDYWLA .

For more information about family engagement, contact: Principal Priscilla Alfaro at palfaro2@saisd.net.

School-wide Program Plan/Campus Improvement Plan Sec. 1116(c)(3)(5)

The Title I School-wide Program Plan/Campus Improvement Plan is available to families and the community on our school website. The Campus Improvement Plan is shared during the annual Title I meetings and printed copies (in English) are available in the school office. Other languages are available upon request. If you have a concern or question about the Campus Improvement Plan, or would like to be involved in the development of the Campus Improvement Plan, contact Principal Priscilla Alfaro at palfaro2@saisd.net

Curriculum & Assessment Sec. 1116(c)(4)(B)

Our teachers use a high-quality curriculum with research-based instructional strategies aligned to the TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) and College Board Standards. SAISD Curriculum Guides are available for 6th - 8th grade in English and Spanish. High School Curriculum is organized by course and students use AP Classroom for Advanced Placement (AP) classes.

YWLA uses district curriculum as a baseline and further supports rigor in the classroom through honors level curriculum, Advanced Placement and Dual Credit classes designed to allow students to earn college credit and prepare them for post secondary success. YWLA is also a novel based campus, allowing students to interact with various texts as outlined in teacher syllabi.

In an effort to support student success, YWLA is an AVID National Demonstration campus and implements WICOR strategies across all content areas school wide and students are enrolled in AVID elective classes.

All students are assessed at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year through curriculum-based and district created assessments. All students in 6th-8th grade and specific high school courses participate in the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, or STAAR. STAAR Performance Levels are determined by the State. Specific assessment information for each grade level and testing calendars are available on the SAISD Parent & Student Assessment Information website. For additional information about the curriculum or grade level assessments, please contact your child's teacher.

In addition to STAAR exams, students participate in PSAT, SAT, ACT, AP simulations and TSIA-2 exams. Additionally, students who are enrolled in an AP course are required to take the accompanying AP exam.

Family Meetings & Trainings Sec. 1116(c)(2), (c)(4), (e)(1), (e)(2), (e)(4)

Our school will offer families regular meetings to communicate information and encourage family participation. This may take place in the following ways:

- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Informational meetings and family training topics during monthly Cardinal Connections. Topics are based on school needs and family feedback to include STAAR, district assessments, monitoring your child's progress, and partnering with your child's teacher(s) social issues impacting adolescences .
- Families can also request meetings by contacting administration, counselors or other support staff based on specific needs, concerns of questions.

We will also work together with Special Education, Section 504 and Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) to coordinate information for families. Family meetings and trainings will be advertised through email, the Cardinal Monthly newsletter and via social media platforms.

YWLA will host monthly Cardinal Connections with various dates and times, please read the Cardinal Monthly and check social media for dates and times as they will vary by month.

Additional activities such as science nights, fine arts performances, PTSA, Parent Council, Booster Club, and Advisory Parent Team meetings, award ceremonies and campus traditions such as White Rose and Navy to Red ceremonies dates will be sent out to parents at least one month in advance through the Cardinal Monthly and placed on the campus website.

Additional District Family Resources

- Attendance
- Frontline Parent Portal
- Parent-Student Handbook
- Family Support Helpline

Additional School Family Resources

- YWLA Campus Website: https://www.saisd.net/o/ywla
- YWLA PTSA Calendar: https://sites.google.com/view/ywlacommunication/home