



July, 2018

According to the Grand Jury Report released in May, 2018, MIT Academy (now affiliated with its parent organization, Griffin Technology Academies, or “GTA”) has been directed to respond to the following findings and recommendations.

#### V. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 1: Parent participation in charter schools is voluntary, not mandatory.

Recommendation 1: Charter schools state on their websites and any related documentation, that parent participation is strictly voluntary and not required, per Education Code section 47605 subdivision (n).

Response: while in fact MIT Academy strongly encourages parent volunteerism, since the law was clarified in 2014, MIT (and now GTA) has steadfastly hold that parent commitment hours are *voluntary* and not required. This is stated and reinforced in a variety of contexts, including:

- Prospective student “open houses” in January – March;
- Parent orientation events in April;
- The MIT student-parent handbook, distributed annually, which states:
  - **“Volunteer Hours”**: To model school involvement for their children, and to tangibly help the students of MIT, MIT Academy requests that parents and families assist the school by completing volunteer hours each year in wide variety of assignments.
- The MIT website, which states:
  - MIT Academy requests that parents and families assist the school by completing volunteer hours each year in a wide variety of assignments. This program is called Parent Volunteer Hours.

All materials, policies, and clarifications are made in both English and Spanish, and it is repeatedly made clear there are no sanctions or penalties for failure to complete volunteer hours.

MIT Academy prides itself on its strong parent involvement and contends that said involvement is a key element in the success of the school. But it cannot be over emphasized that such involvement is strictly voluntary, and no student or parent has ever been punished or penalized in any way for failing to comply with the so-called “Parent Pledge,” a fact which is made clear to parents in a variety of ways.

For more information about the MIT Parent Volunteer program, contact Roxana Jimenez at [rjimenez@mitacademy.org](mailto:rjimenez@mitacademy.org) , or at 707-552-6482, Ext. 115.