



NAVEGADORES ESCOLARES

Apoyando familias Latinas de Montclair. Una relación a la vez.



A new program seeks Spanish-speaking adults to help Montclair Latinx families navigate school and access to education.

This is a call to action to help students and families who, because of language, cultural, or other obstacles, are struggling to access public education and to advocate for themselves.

The heart of this program are our parent navigators, **Navegadores**. Each Navegador will be matched with a student and their family, **La Familia**, that needs support and has opted to join this program. As a Navegador, you will provide direct hands-on support to help the student and family access and take advantage of school and local resources.

This need is urgent, and MFEE is looking for Navegadores to join before the school year ends. To learn more about becoming a Navegador, tell us about yourself at https://bit.ly/Navegador_apply and we will contact you. To learn more about MFEE, visit us at www.mfee.org.

What do Navegadores help Las Familias with?

The direct support Navegadores provide is determined by each Familia's unique needs and priorities, learned over time as relationships and trust grow. Navegadores are the main point of contact for La Familia, but there is a large bench of MFEE staff and volunteers to provide resources and support.

While no two families have the same needs and priorities, in general Las Familias need help to:

- Sign up for and access Genesis - and then access Genesis through the site's translation option.
- Understand and advocate for access to services and opportunities provided to ELL (English Language Learner) students
- Navigate the many school experiences that are conducted almost exclusively in English, such as school registration, back to school nights, parent/teacher conferences, high school guidance meetings, and IEP (individualized education plan) meetings for students who qualify for special education services.

What do Navegadores do?

- Communicate one-on-one with La Familia, by phone, text, and Zoom (and in-person if everyone agrees). Participate in occasional social group gatherings, like family picnics, organized by MFEE.

- Join regular check-ins with the cohort of Navegadores and MFEE, and participate in custom-designed trainings.

Who are our Navegadores?

Navegadores don't need to have knowledge specific to navigating the public school system. Navegadores need the approach and attitude to provide hands-on help to Las Familias.

Our Navegadores are:

- Problem-solvers
- Empathetic
- Tenacious
- Self-organized
- Comfortable with technology
- Available on a flexible schedule
- Strong conversational Spanish speakers

What is the time commitment of Navegadores?

Each Navegador will be matched with three Familias (each family may have more than one school-age child). We anticipate that Navegadores will spend 1-3 hours each week with each Familia - through a combination of in-person meetings, phone, text, or other communications - for an approximate total of 5-10 hours per week. In addition, Navegadores are expected to join regular check-ins with the cohort of Navegadores and MFEE and participate in custom-designed trainings (1-1.5 hours every week or every other week). A complete calendar will be provided.

We are asking for a minimum four-month commitment (June 2021-September 2022) so that families can build trust and relationships.

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