



# NAVEGADORES ESCOLARES

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



## **Navegadores Escolares 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 is matched with a student and their family, **La Familia**, that needs support and has opted to join this program. As a Navegador, you 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/Navegadores\\_apply](https://bit.ly/Navegadores_apply) and we will contact you. To learn more about MFEE, visit us at [www.mfee.org](http://www.mfee.org).

### **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
- Strong conversational Spanish speakers

### **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:

- Access and use Genesis and successfully communicate with teachers.
- 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.
- Connect to everything Montclair has to offer - school events, recreational activities, cultural experiences.
- With MFEE's guidance and resources, connect to supportive health care, legal, employment, and housing services.

### **What do Navegadores do?**

- Communicate one-on-one with La Familia, by phone and text (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.

### **What is the time commitment of Navegadores?**

Each Navegador will be matched with one Familia (each family may have more than one school-age child). The time spent supporting and connecting with the familia varies based on that Familia's level of need. Typically, Navegadores spend 1-3 hours each week on communications - texting, phone calls, and email.

When you are matched with a Familia, we will work with you to find a match that fits your schedule and availability. Most of our Navegadores have their own school-age children, work in and out of the home, and have other time commitments. Our goal is to identify a good fit between Navegadores and Familias.

Navegadores are also expected to join weekly or bi-weekly check-ins (over Zoom) with the cohort of Navegadores and MFEE and participate in custom-designed trainings.

We are asking for a minimum commitment through September 2022 so that families can build trust and relationships.

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