



## Parent and Family Engagement Policy

The Academy Charter School agrees to implement the following statutory requirements of *Section 1116-Parent and Family Engagement* of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA):

### EXPECTATIONS AND OBJECTIVES

**A.** As a school receiving federal ESSA Title I-Part A grant funds, **we will involve parents and family members in meaningful parent and family engagement** as follows:

- Involve parents in the development of the written Parent & Family Engagement Policy.
- Distribute to parents the Parent & Family Engagement Policy.
- Consensus agreement with parents to the changes or updates to the Parent & Family Engagement Policy.

Parents will be notified of the policy in an understandable and clear format and, if necessary, provided in a language the parents can understand. The Parent & Family Engagement Policy will be distributed to all parents of participating Title I students in September of each school year. This policy will also be placed on the school's website, made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.

**B.** **We will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of our school** in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities; to provide assistance to parents/families in understanding such topics as the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, how to monitor a child's progress, and how to work with educators to improve the achievement of the children attending our school. This may also include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education.

- We will convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children must be invited and encouraged to attend to inform parents of their school's participation in Title I-Part A, the requirements of the program, and the right of the parents to be involved.
- We shall provide materials and training to help families to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy and technology.

**C.** **We will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities** under Title I-Part A, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs, including public/private preschool programs, and conduct such other activities as parent resource centers.

- We will offer a flexible number of meetings, such as in the morning or in the evening.

- We may use Title I-Part A grant funds to provide transportation, childcare, or home visits, as the services relate to parent involvement.
- We shall ensure that information related to school and parent/family programs, meetings and other activities is provided to parents/families in a format, and to the extent possible, in a language the families can understand.
- We may conduct in-home conferences between teachers and other educators with parents/families who are unable to attend such conferences at school in order to maximize family engagement and participation.

**D. We will conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of our school served under Title I-Part A, including identifying:**

- Barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by Section 1116 (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background);
  - The needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and
  - Strategies to support successful school and family interactions.
- We will involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way:
    - in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under the Title I-Part A Program;
    - including the planning, review, and improvement of the school's parent and family engagement policy, except that if we have in place a process for involving parents in the joint planning and design of the school's programs, we may use that process, if such process includes an adequate representation of parents of Title I-Part A participating children.
    - We shall seriously consider such other reasonable support for family engagement activities under this section as families may request.

**E. We will use the findings of such evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement, and to revise, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policy.**

- We will provide parents of participating children:
  - a) Timely information about Title I-Part A programs.
  - b) A description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards.
  - c) If requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and to respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

**F. We will involve parents in the activities of the school served under Title I-Part A. This may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the school to adequately represent the needs of the**

population served by the school. The advisory board can help develop, revise, and review the parent and family engagement policy.

**PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

Our school's Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I-Part A programs, as evidenced by the following parent's signature 215 R Janks 2/26/95