

Parent and Family Engagement

Parent and family engagement occurs when there is an on-going interactive communication and/or other involvement between parents and family members and their children's educational programs.

The Charter School may receive Title I funds only if it conducts outreach consistent with federal law to all parents and family members and implements programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents and family members in programs assisted under Title I. Such programs, activities, and procedures shall be planned and implemented following meaningful consultation with the parents and family members of participating children.

The Charter School shall develop jointly with, agree upon and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy. The policy will: (1) Establish the Charter School's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement, and (2) specifically describe how the Charter School will:

1. Demonstrate joint development of an engagement plan. The Charter School shall involve parents and family members in jointly developing the Charter School's plan;
2. Coordinate assistance and support. The Charter School shall provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist in implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. These activities may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education;
3. Coordinate with other programs. To the extent feasible and appropriate, the Charter School shall coordinate and integrate its parent and family engagement strategies with the Charter School's other relevant federal, state, and local programs;
4. Conduct annual program evaluation. The Charter School shall conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of its parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all its schools receiving Title I funds. The annual evaluation shall include identification of:
  - A. Barriers to greater participation by parents and family members in improvement plan activities (with particular attention paid to those who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are representative of any racial or ethnic minority background);

- B. Needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and
  - C. Strategies that will be implemented to support successful school-parent and family interactions.
5. Implement evaluation findings. Pursuant to item four (4) (above), the Charter School shall use the findings of the evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family member involvement and to revise, if necessary, the Charter School's parent and family engagement policy described herein; and
  6. Establish a parent and family advisory board. The Charter School shall involve parents and family members in the school activities receiving Title I funds. Activities will include establishing a parent and family advisory board to adequately represent the needs of the population served by the Charter School and for the purpose of developing, reviewing, and/or revising the Charter School's Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

### Policy Development

The Charter School shall jointly develop with and distribute to parents and family of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy. This policy must be agreed upon by participating parents and family members and shall describe the means for carrying out the requirements of items one (1) through four (4) below. Parents and family shall be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language parents and family can understand. Such policy shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and family as well as the Charter School.

1. Parent and family involvement. All Charter Schools receiving Title I funds shall:
  - A. Convene an annual meeting at a convenient time to which all parents and family of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend. This meeting will inform parents and family members of the school's programs, explain the requirements of this policy, and emphasize the right of parents and family to be involved; and
  - B. Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and with reserved Title I funds may provide transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family involvement; and
  - C. Involve parents and family in the planning, review, and improvement of the Charter School's available programs in an organized, ongoing, and timely way. This includes the planning, review, and improvement of the school's parent and

family engagement policy as well as the joint development of the schoolwide program plan.

If a school already has in place a process or procedure for involving parents and family in the joint planning and design of the school's programs, the school may use that process or procedure, provided it already includes an adequate representation of parents and family of Title I qualifying children; and

- D. Provide parents and family of participating children:
- 1) Timely information about qualifying programs;
  - 2) A description and explanation of:
    - a. The curriculum in use at the school,
    - b. The forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and
    - c. The achievement levels of the challenging state academic standards; and
  - 3) Opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by parents or family members, to:
    - a. Make suggestions,
    - b. Participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and
    - c. Respond to any relevant suggestions as soon as practicably possible.
2. School-parent-family compact to achieve high student academic achievement. The Charter School and parents and family of Title I children shall jointly develop a school-parent-family compact. The compact will describe how parents and family, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. In addition, the compact will identify the means by which the school, parents, and family will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the challenging state academic standards.

Such compact shall:

- A. Describe the school's responsibility to:
- 1) Provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children to meet the challenging state academic standards, and
  - 2) Identify and describe the ways that parents and/or family members will be responsible for supporting their children's learning: volunteering in the

child's classroom; participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children; and encouraging positive use of extracurricular time;

- B. Address the importance of communication between teachers and parents and family members on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum:
  - 1) Parent and family teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement;
  - 2) Frequent reports to parents and family members on their child's progress;
  - 3) Reasonable parent and family access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities; and
  - 4) Ensuring regular two-way, meaningful communication between parent and/or family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents and family can understand.
- 3. Empowering parent and family involvement. To ensure effective involvement of parents and family and to support a partnership among the school, parents and family, and the community to improve student academic achievement, the Charter School shall:
  - A. Provide assistance to parents and family of children served by the school, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the challenging state academic standards, state and local academic assessments, the requirements of this policy, monitoring a child's progress, and ways for educators and parents and family members to work together to improve the achievement of their children;
  - B. Provide materials and training such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to help parents and family work with their children to improve achievement as well as to foster parent and family involvement;
  - C. Educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, other school leaders, and remaining staff in the value and utility of parent and family participation. With the assistance of parents and family, trainings will include, but not be limited to reaching out, communicating, and working with parents and family as equal partners in the implementation and coordination of parent and family programs while building ties among parents, families, and the schools;
  - D. Coordinate and integrate, to the extent possible, parent and family involvement in programs and activities with other available federal, state, and local programs. These include public preschool programs and other activities such as parent

resource centers, which encourage and support parents and families to more fully participate in the education of their children; and

- E. Ensure that information related to parent and family programs at school, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents and family of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents and family can understand;

In addition, the Charter School may:

- F. Involve parents and family in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training;
- G. Provide necessary literacy training for parents and family from Title I funds in the event the Charter School has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training;
- H. Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parent and family involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs to enable parents and family to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- I. Train parents and family how to enhance the involvement of other parents and family members;
- J. Arrange school meetings among teachers/other educators and parents and family members at a variety of times or conduct in-home conferences for those unable to attend traditionally scheduled meetings or conferences at school. These options will maximize parent and family involvement and participation.
- K. Adopt and implement model approaches to improve parent and family involvement;
- L. Establish a parent and family advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family involvement in programs supported under Title I;
- M. Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses to become involved in and/or collaborate with parent and family activities;

Finally, the Charter School shall:

- N. Provide such other reasonable support for activities under this section as parents and/or family members may request; and
- O. Inform parents and family members as well as organizations of the existence of the program.

4. Accessibility of information for parents and family. In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of this policy, the Charter School, to the extent practicable, shall provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members. This provision includes parents and families who have limited English proficiency, parents and families with disabilities, and parents and families of migratory children. Information and school reports shall be provided in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that the above-mentioned parents and family members understand.

Cross Reference: 4160 Parents Right to Know Notices

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. § 6311 State Plans  
20 U.S.C. § 6312 Local Education Agency Plans  
20 U.S.C. § 6318 Parental Involvement

Policy History:

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