

The Academy Charter School 2017-18 District Wide Parental Engagement Policy

PART I: GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Academy Charter School and its faculty agree to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The Academy Charter School will put into operation programs, activities and procedures aimed to involve parents in all of the school's Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). These programs, activities and procedures will be planned in active cooperation with parents of participating children.
- The Academy Charter School will create and provide to parents and guardians a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental Engagement requirements, The Academy Charter School will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with disabilities. Also, The Academy Charter School will provide transportation to its students and their parents/guardians for all school-sponsored activities and meetings.
- The Academy Charter School, in accordance with the Title I, Part A plan, will be receptive of parental concerns and will submit any comments to the Pennsylvania Department of Education when the school submits the final draft of the plan.
- The Academy Charter School will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental Engagement and expects its faculty to facilitate an environment from which parents can be actively engaged in their children's learning:
 - Parental Engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—
 - that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
 - that parents are encouraged to be actively engaged in their child's education at school;
 - that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education and advancement of their child;
 - carrying out other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.

PART II:
DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED
DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The Academy Charter School will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental Engagement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - Each student will be appointed an advisor. Advisors will meet with students a minimum of bi-monthly and be in frequent contact with parents regarding the nature of these meetings and the overall status of students' achievement at The Academy Charter School.
 - Advisors will set up with parents a convenient form of communication to sustain constructive two-way communication.
2. The Academy Charter School will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - Parents will be provided transportation to meetings and school-sponsored events.
 - Parents may contact their child's advisors and voice their concerns. Advisors will record comments and submit them to administration via the Advisor (report) Form.
3. The Academy Charter School will provide the following assistance for students considering higher education:
 - Graduating seniors, upon admission to a university or technical school, will be granted \$2,000 towards their tuition.
 - SATs: Transportation and funding will be provided to any student wishing to complete the SATs.
 - Several opportunities will be provided per year for students to attend local universities and attain information pertinent to enrollment.
4. The Academy Charter School will conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental Engagement policy and its overall effectiveness in the areas of participation, communication, and student achievement. The findings from the nine week Parent Survey forms, the results of the Graduate Survey Forms and the statistical comparisons of levels of parents' rates of participation will be reviewed for inclusion in the evaluation. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental Engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental Engagement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the Engagement of parents) its parental Engagement policies.
 - Parents will be given a survey near the end of the academic year in order to assess the overall success of the parental Engagement plan.
 - Parents will be given the opportunity to discuss with their child's teacher/advisor how communication can be improved in the future as the parental Engagement plan evolves.
 - Parents must be made aware from the outset of the plan that their input is crucial to this process and must provide feedback in order for the plan to work at its best.

5. The Academy Charter School will build the school's and parents' capacities for strong parental Engagement in order to facilitate a partnership among The Academy, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement via the following activities specifically described below:
 - A. The Academy Charter School will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph—
 - Pennsylvania academic content standards
 - Pennsylvania student academic achievement standards
 - Pennsylvania and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
 - The requirements of Part A
 - How to monitor their child's progress
 - How to work with educators
 - B. The Academy Charter School will educate its teachers, counselors, principals, and other faculty in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:
 - Providing several opportunities for parents to attend meetings and events at the school in order to meet those responsible for the everyday academic growth of their children
 - Continuing teachers' professional development in such areas as effective communication with parents and students and providing up-to-date research to teachers and administrators as to how they can enhance their strategies
 - C. The Academy Charter School will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent-programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:
 - Parents will be provided with a concise version of the parental Engagement plan that highlights information most pertinent to their participation in the process

PART III:
ADOPTION/IMPLEMENTATION

The Academy Charter School's Parental Engagement Plan has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs.

This policy was adopted by The Academy Charter School on September 1, 2017 and will be in effect for the period of the 17-18 School Year. The Academy Charter School will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 30, 2017.

(Signature of Authorized Official)

(Date)