

DISTRICT WIDE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School agrees to implement the following requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the engagement of parents and families in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and families of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent and family compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- The school district will incorporate this District Wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents and families with limited English proficiency, parents and families with disabilities, and parents and families of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents and families understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents and families of participating children, the school district will submit any parent and family comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- The school district will engage the parents and families of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

- a) *that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
- b) *that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- c) *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 of their child;*
- d) *the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.*

The school district will inform parents and families and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in the State.

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School will take the following actions to engage with parents and families in the joint development of its district wide parent and family engagement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - Annual Parent and Family Title I Meetings to inform parents and families of their participation in Title I, the Title I engagement requirements and their rights to be involved.
 - Review and revise school-parent/family compact with parents and families and school staff annually.
 - Provide all parents and families with a copy of the district/LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy each year.
 - Have parents and families participate in an annual parent and family engagement survey.

2. The Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School will take the following actions to engage with parents and families in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - Develop a Parent Advisory Council.

- Annually meet with school staff and the Parent Advisory Council to review and update the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Family–School Compact.
- Review parent and family engagement survey results with school staff and the Parent Advisory Council and use the results to revise the parent and family programs.

3. The Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

- Work with the Federal Programs and Academic Departments to ensure that the school is providing necessary learning tools and educational programs in accordance with guidelines of Title I Part A and ESSA.
- Meetings between invited parents and families, administration and staff for professional development needs and training to provide most effective teaching tools and resources to increase student achievement. Discussion to include PSSA, Keystone, and local assessment data and results.

4. The Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School, to the extent feasible and appropriate, will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies in Part A with parent and family engagement strategies under the following other programs: Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents As Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and State-operated preschool programs by:

- Inviting program members to participate in parent and family meetings held during the school year.
- Inviting program members to participate in professional development activities.
- Organizing and participating in joint transition-related training of school staff, Head Start staff and other early childhood development programs.
- Conducting meetings involving parents and families and program participants to discuss development and assessments needs of individual children.

5. The Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School will take the following actions to conduct, with the engagement of parents and families, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents and families in parent and family engagement activities (with particular attention to parents and families who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family

engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parent and family engagement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the engagement of parents and families) its parent and family engagement policies.

- Work with the Parent Advisory Council.
- The Federal Programs, Curriculum, and Academic Departments will enhance the alignment of current curriculum with developed Title I Programs. The catalyst for integration will be innovative technology to assist the needs of all children.
- The Program/Policy will be evaluated initially by Federal Programs, Academic Departments, and Senior Administrators on meeting the needs of all students, with concentrations in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, listening and mathematics.
- Program/policy evaluation findings will be shared with parents and families via meetings, surveys, and other means of communication to work collectively to update and improve policies as needed.

6. The Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School will build the school’s and parent’s and family’s capacity for strong parent and family engagement, in order to ensure effective engagement of parents and families and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents and families, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents and families of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --

- the State’s academic content standards,
 - the State’s student academic achievement standards,
 - the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
 - the requirements of Part A,
 - how to monitor their child’s progress, and
 - how to work with educators:
1. Provide assistance to Title I parents and families as appropriate in understanding standards, state and local assessments, the requirements of Part A, monitoring a child’s progress and working with educators by conducting workshops at host locations such as Intermediates, PA Cyber host sites, enlistment of County and State Parent Advisory Committees and Workshops.
 2. Provide parents and families with PDE websites and Department of Ed websites specific to academic standards, assessments, ESSA, and Title I Part A.

3. Organize and participate in joint transition-related training of school staff, Head Start staff and other early childhood development programs.
 4. Conduct meetings involving parents and families and program participants to discuss development and assessments needs of individual children.
- B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents and families work with their children to improve their children’s academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement, by:
- Providing parents and families with a Parent Resource Center.
 - To the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with home instruction programs, and training to support needs of children.
 - Having parent and family activities at a variety of times throughout the day to meet the needs of parents and families.
- C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents and families, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents and families as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents and families, and in how to implement and coordinate parent and family programs and build ties between parents and families and schools, by:
- Annual Parent and Family Title I Meetings to inform parents and families of their participation in Title I, the Title I engagement requirements and their rights to be involved.
 - Additional meetings that are devoted specifically to addressing an understanding of academic standards, assessment, enrichment and remediation for parents and families to support their children.
 - Communicate to parents and families updates and changes to Federal and State policies, assessments and mandates of ESSA.
 - Jointly with parents and families, review school-parent/family compact outlining how parents and families, the entire school staff and students share in the responsibility for improved student achievement.
 - Staff Professional Development.
- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource

centers, that encourage and support parents and families in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

- Inviting program members to participate in parent and family meetings held during the school year.
 - Inviting program members to participate in professional development activities.
 - Organizing and participating in joint transition-related training of school staff, Head Start staff and other early childhood development programs.
 - Conducting meetings involving parents and families and program participants to discuss development and assessments needs of individual children.
- E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent and family programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents and families of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents and families can understand:
- Mailings
 - Random phone call reminders
 - Emails
 - Postings on PA Cyber’s instructional platform

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

- adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parent and family engagement;
- establishing a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs;
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parent and family engagement activities; and
- providing other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under section 1118 as parents and families may request.

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