



Parent & Family Engagement Policy

Learning and Educational Agencies and schools receiving federal funding are required to implement a parent and family engagement policy under federal law. See 20 U.S.C. § 6318. The purpose of the Pacific Coast Academy's Governing Board approving this Parent and Family Engagement Policy is to accomplish the following:

- I. Identify the purpose of the policy and define "parent"
- II. Outline parents and family member involvement in drafting of the School Plan
- III. Establish the ways the School will provide for coordination, technical assistance, and other supports
- IV. Establish the annual meeting content and timeline
- V. Outline the content, delivery method, and other details of the Notice to parents
- VI. Establish ways parents will participate in the planning, review and improvement of Title I Programs
- VII. Establish the ways in which the School will build capacity for parent involvement
- VIII. List and describe how the School will coordinate with other programs
- IX. Establish the annual evaluation process for the policy
- X. Establish the School-Parent Compact
- XI. Establish the means to involve parents of Limited English Proficient Student, Disabled
- XII. Parents, and Parents of Migratory Children
- XIII. Establish the notices that will be provided to parents of participating students
- XIV. Ensure that information and materials are provided in ways, so they are accessible to all

I. Introduction

Research has shown that the attitudes, behavior, and achievement of children are enhanced when parents or other caregivers are involved in their children's education. To that end, the Pacific Coast Academy (the "School") has adopted this parent and family engagement policy in order to promote learning and provide a more positive learning experience for students. Within this policy, the word "parent" is intended to reach any caregiver of students enrolled in the School, including but not limited to, parents, guardians, grandparents, aunts, uncles, foster parents, stepparents, etc. This policy will be incorporated into the School's plan pursuant to federal law and submitted to the California Department of Education with the School's Consolidated Application.

II. Involvement in Drafting the School Plan

Parents and family members of participating children will be involved in the development of the School plan required by federal law. On an annual basis, the School will submit the School plan to the Governing Board for review and suggested changes after holding a parent meeting and before the plan is submitted to the California Department of Education (“CDE”) with the Consolidated Application. In addition, all parents of participating children will annually be invited to review the School plan and submit comments.

If the School plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the School will submit any comments from parents of participating children with the School plan when it is submitted to the CDE.

III. Coordination, Technical Assistance, and Other Support

The School will ensure the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance in the following ways:

- The School will distribute 95% of the funds reserved pursuant to federal law (20 U.S.C. § 6318(a)(3)(A)) to the school for parent involvement activities.
- The School (board and school leaders) will collaborate to devise a timeline for parental involvement activities throughout the school year and create a follow up tool to ensure that the activities occur.
- The School will develop the necessary technical assistance for planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

IV. Annual Meeting

Within 60 days of the first day of school, the School shall convene an annual meeting to which all parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs are invited and encouraged to attend. The School will hold two additional meetings to ensure the maximum parental participation, providing the same information, to be offered at flexible times, such as in the morning or evening.

The information provided at the meetings will inform parents of the School’s receipt of Title I, Part A funds and the specific requirements of Title I, Part A. Additionally, parents shall be informed of their rights to be involved in Title I, Part A programs.

V. Notice

Within 60 days of the beginning of school, the School will send through electronic methods a notice to all parents containing, but not limited to, the following information:

- Information about Title I, Part A programs.

- An explanation of the requirements of Title I, Part A programs.
- A description of the parent rights for participation in Title I, Part A programs.
- A description (including timing of meetings, location, etc.) of how parents can participate in the planning, review and/or improvement of the parent involvement policy and the schoolwide program.
- 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.
- An invitation to attend the annual meeting and additional meetings, providing information about the purpose of the meetings and the dates and times.
- A copy of the most current Parent and Family Engagement Policy and a feedback process for parents to comment on its content.

In addition to mailing this notice to parents of participating children, the School will post the information on its website.

VI. Title I, Part A Program Involvement

In order to involve parents in an organized, ongoing and timely way in the planning, review and improvement of Title I, Part A programs, the parent involvement policy and the school-wide program plan, the School will involve parents of participating students as follows:

- The School will conduct two of Family Learning Nights each year where all parents of participating children will be invited to the School to learn about the different Title I, Part A programs, details of this policy and the school-wide program plan. These meetings will be held at flexible times.
- Parents not attending the Family Learning Nights will be contacted to encourage participation and inform them of future Family Learning Nights.
- The School will publish a regular Newsletter with notification of upcoming participation opportunities.
- Each year, the School will hold an End of School Night, at which parents of participating children will be invited to review Title I, Part A programs, the parent involvement policy and the school-wide program plan and recommend any changes.
- If requested by parents of participating children, the School will schedule regular meetings where parents are able to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children. The School will respond to such suggestions within 60 days.
- If the school-wide program plan is not satisfactory to parents of participating children, the School will submit any parent comments on the plan when it submits the plan.

VII. Building Capacity for Involvement

A. Standards, Assessments, Title I Requirements, Monitoring Progress and Improving Student Achievement

In order to ensure effective parental involvement and support a partnership among the School, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, the School will provide the following programs to assist parents in understanding the challenging State academic standards, State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, Title I requirements, and how to monitor their child's progress and work with educators to improve the academic achievement of their children (collectively referred to "Standards and Requirements"):

- The School will include one parent on its board of directors.
- The School will regularly publish in its Newsletter, and/or on its website, descriptions and explanations of State academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State, and local academic assessments, Title I requirements, and how to monitor their child's progress and work with educators to improve the academic achievement of their children.
- Regular meetings will be held by the School to discuss how parents can work with educators to improve their child's academic achievement.
- The School will hold one Family Math and Science Event and one Family Literacy Event to introduce parents to the School's curriculum and its correlation to the State's academic content standards and academic achievement standards.
- Parents will be invited to attend regular classes to learn about State and local academic assessments and to take sample tests.

B. Helping Parents to Work with their Children

In an effort to foster parental involvement, the School will provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement through the following programs:

- The School will hold quarterly classes for parents and students to learn how to use computers and the internet in accordance with the School's internet use policy. The training will enable parents to access their children's schoolwork, communicate with teachers, and review information posted about the School.
- The School will provide parents with access to literacy programs that bond families around reading and using the public library.
- The School will provide quarterly seminars on parenting skills and parent child communication.

C. Education on Parent Involvement

The School will annually educate teachers and other school staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and the School. The training shall take place each year in staff orientations, annual staff development materials, and other in-service trainings held throughout the school year.

In order to better understand what works best for the current parents of participating children attending the School, the education will take place after the following research is done (which shall be accomplished within the first 90 days of the commencement of the School year):

- A survey will be sent home to parents of participating students that solicits information on what skills each parent has to offer the School and what types of parental involvement programs in which parents would most likely participate.

VIII. Coordination with Other Programs

The School shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other federal, state, and local programs, including public preschool programs and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

The School will coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with these programs as follows:

1. Requiring that the school conduct meetings involving parents, kindergarten or elementary school teachers, and Head Start teachers or, if appropriate, teachers from other early childhood development programs such as the Early Reading First program, to discuss the developmental and other needs of individual children.
2. developing and implementing a systematic procedure for receiving records regarding such children, transferred with parental consent from a Head Start program or, where applicable, another early childhood development program such as the Early Reading First program.

IX. Annual Evaluation

The School, with the involvement of parents, shall conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this family involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served under Title I, Part A, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities under federal law. The School will pay 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 School will use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, this family involvement policy.

X. School-Parent Compact

At the beginning of each school year, the School will enter into School-Parent Compacts with parents of participating children. The School-Parent Compact will outline how parents, the entire school staff and

students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the School and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards.

The School will seek out input from parents to annually evaluate the effectiveness of the School-Parent Compact and provide feedback and suggestions for revision.

XI. Involvement of Parents of Limited English Proficient Students, Disabled Parents, and Parents of Migratory Children

The School shall implement an effective means of outreach to parents and family members of limited English proficient students to inform them regarding how they can be involved in the education of their children and be active participants in assisting their children to attain English proficiency, achieve at high levels in core academic subjects and meet challenging State academic achievement standards and State academic content standards expected of all students. To accomplish this goal, the School will do the following:

- The School will hold regular meetings, and send notice of these meetings, for the purpose of formulating and responding to recommendations from parents of participating children.
- The School will provide language translators at parent meetings to the extent practicable.
- The School will schedule meetings to enable families to share information about culture, background, children's talents, and particular needs for the schools.
- The School will provide parents of limited English proficiency with access to English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to increase their English language proficiency to assist their children with homework. The school's administrative staff will visit the classes to interact with the parents.

The School will provide full opportunities for participation of parents with disabilities and parents of migratory children. To accomplish this goal, the School will do the following:

- If any parent needs a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate, they need only contact the School at least 72 hours before the scheduled event so every reasonable effort can be made to provide the accommodation.

XII. Notices

In accordance with federal law, the School will provide the following notices to parents of children attending Title I, Part A schools:

- Annual report card
- A notice regarding the parent's right to request information regarding the following:
 - Professional qualifications of the student's teacher(s);
 - The level of achievement and academic growth of the student, if applicable and available, on each of the State academic assessments and timely notice that the student has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who does

- not meet applicable State certification or licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned.
- Information regarding any State or School policy regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by federal law and by the State and School, which shall include a policy, procedure, or parental right to opt the child out of such assessment, where applicable.
- The notice regarding language instruction programs.
- Any other notices required by law.

XIII. Miscellaneous

The School shall ensure that all information related to School and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

The School will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as requested by parents.