

# Explore Academy

## FEDERAL LAW COMPLIANT PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

### **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 Explore Academy (the "LEA") has adopted this parent and family engagement policy in order to promote learning and provide a more positive learning experience for the students of its schools.<sup>1</sup> This policy has also been incorporated into the LEA's plan developed pursuant to federal law, and submitted to the California Department of Education with the LEA's Consolidated Application.

### **II. Involvement in Drafting the LEA Plan**

Parents and family members of participating children will be involved in the development of the LEA plan required by federal law. On an annual basis, the LEA will submit the LEA plan to the school's parents for review and suggested changes 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 LEA plan and submit comments.

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

### **III. Coordination, Technical Assistance, and Other Support**

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

- The LEA 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 LEA (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.

### **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 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Within this policy, the word "parent" is employed. This word is intended to reach any caregiver of students enrolled in the LEA's school, including but not limited to, parents, guardians, grandparents, aunts, uncles, foster parents, stepparents, etc.

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 30 days of the beginning of school, the School will send (via mail, sent home with students, and/or placed in orientation packets and/or registration packets) a notice 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 rights parents have 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;
- 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 form for parents to comment on its content.

### **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, the School will involve parents of participating students as follows:

- The School will conduct 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. These meetings will be held at flexible times. Additionally, some may be located at community libraries or at parent volunteer homes for those who live far from the School.
- 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 as soon as practicably possible.
- If the schoolwide 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 to the LEA.

## **VI. 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 LEA, parents and the community to improve student academic achievement, the LEA 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 LEA 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 LEA at each school, at community libraries and/or parent volunteer homes to discuss how parents can work with educators to improve their child's academic achievement.
- The LEA will hold Family Math and Science nights to introduce parents to the School's curriculum and it's correlation to the State's academic content standards and academic achievement standards.

### **B. Helping Parents to Work with their Children**

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

- The LEA will provide parents with access to classes to obtain their GED.
- The LEA will provide parents with access to literacy programs that bond families around reading and using the public library.
- The LEA will train parents how to tutor their children in the school.

### **C. Education on Parent Involvement**

The LEA will annually educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other 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.

### **D. Other Optional Parent Participation**

The LEA will involve parents in the development of the training regarding the importance of parent involvement for teachers, principals and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training.

In order to maximize parental involvement and participation, the LEA will arrange school meetings at various times or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at the LEA.

The LEA will adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement.

The LEA will develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities, such as sponsoring events, providing volunteers for school activities, creating internships for students.

## **VII. Coordination with Other Programs**

The LEA 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 LEA 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.

## **VIII. Annual Evaluation**

The LEA, 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 LEA 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 LEA will use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, this family involvement policy.

## **IX. School-Parent Compact**

At the beginning of each school year, the School will enter in to 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.

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

The LEA 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 student. To accomplish this goal, the LEA will do the following:

- The LEA 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 LEA will provide language translators at parent meetings to the extent practicable.
- The LEA will schedule meetings to enable families to share information about culture, background, children’s talents and particular needs for the schools.

The LEA will provide full opportunities for participation of parents with disabilities and parents of migratory children.

**XI. Notices**

In accordance with federal law, the LEA 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 classroom teachers;
  - 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 4 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 LEA policy regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by federal law and by the State and LEA, 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.

## **XII. Miscellaneous**

The LEA shall ensure that all information related to LEA 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 LEA will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as requested by parents.

Adopted: November 10, 2022

Amended: