

COMMONWEALTH CHARTER
ACADEMY

SECTION: COMMUNITY

TITLE: PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
POLICY

ADOPTED: January 17, 2018

REVISED:

917. PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Purpose

The Board recognizes the vital role parents/guardians and family play in the education, welfare and values of their children. CCA is committed to the belief that all students can learn and acknowledges that schools and families share a commitment to the educational success of students.

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Commonwealth Charter Academy agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

Section 1116 (a)(2),
ESEA, 20 U.S.C
§6318

- CCA will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents and family members in the school with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1116, CCA will work to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policy meet the requirements of section 1116(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1116(d) of the ESEA.
- The school will incorporate this 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 policy requirements, to the extent practicable, CCA will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents and family members with limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members 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 family members understand.

- If the CCA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents and family members of participating children, CCA will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- CCA will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A in decisions about how the 1% or more of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools. CCA will assure that the reserved funds are utilized for one or more of the purposes specified in 20 U.S.C. §6318(a)(3)(D).
- CCA will be governed by the following statutory definition (20 U.S.C. §7801(39)) of parent and family engagement, and expects that it will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

“Parent and family engagement” means the participation of parents and family members in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

- (A) that parents and family members play an integral role in assuring their child’s learning;*
- (B) that parents and family members are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;*
- (C) that parents and family members 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 1116 of the ESEA.*

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW COMMONWEALTH CHARTER ACADEMY WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

<p>Section 1116(a)(2), ESEA</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commonwealth Charter Academy will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in the joint development of its district wide and school wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Annual Title I Parent meeting (Parent Advisory Council), an open forum for additions/revisions of the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy & School-Parent Compact ▫ For parents and family members unable to attend the parent meeting, the policy & compact will be posted and sent for continuous feedback. ▫ Families are invited to take part in annual surveys 2. Commonwealth Charter Academy will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Parent & Family Engagement Policy and School Parent compact will be available for families to view and update ▫ Parent surveys will be conducted to determine where parents would like additional supports from CCA staff ▫ Parents will take part in the CCA School Improvement Team meetings. ▫ Federal Programs Manager contact information is available to CCA students, parents, and staff 3. Commonwealth Charter Academy will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents and family members, 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 school. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents and family members in parent and family engagement activities (with 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 the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy and activities to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parent and family engagement policy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Annual surveys ▫ The Parent and Family Engagement Policy and School Parent Compact will be reviewed annually 4. Commonwealth Charter Academy will build the school’s and parent’s capacity for strong parent and family engagement to involve parents and family members. CCA will improve academic achievement by supporting a partnership among the school, parents, and the community. through the following activities specifically described below: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. The school will provide assistance to parents of children served by the school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
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- the State’s academic content and achievement standards
- the State and local academic assessments
- how to monitor their child’s progress
- how to work with educators:
 - Provide assistance as appropriate in understanding standards and local assessments
 - Provide families with PDE websites and those specific to standards, assessments, ESSA, and Title I Part A

B. Commonwealth Charter Academy will foster parent and family engagement by providing materials and training to help parents improve their children’s academic achievement.

C. Commonwealth Charter Academy will, with the input of parents, provide various staff professional development opportunities that emphasize the importance of working with parents as equal partners, utilizing parent contributions, and building effective relationships with parents.

D. Commonwealth Charter Academy will use multiple methods of communication such as mailings, email, and phone calls to communicate information related to the school and parent involvement activities in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents and family members can understand.

PART III. DISCRETIONARY COMMONWEALTH CHARTER ACADEMY PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

- Involving parents and family members in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
- Providing necessary literacy training for parents and family members from Title I, Part A funds, if the school has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
- Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent and family engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents and family members to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parent and family engagement;
- Establishing a 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 1116 as parents may request.

PART IV. SCHOOL PARENT COMPACT

Commonwealth Charter Academy shall jointly develop with parents/ guardians of students served in the program a School-Parental Compact outlining the manner in which parents/guardians, school staff and students share responsibility for improved student achievement in meeting academic standards. The compact shall:

1. Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment, enabling students in the Title I program to meet the school's academic standards.
2. Indicate the ways in which parents/guardians will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, and television watching; volunteering in the classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions related to their child's education and positive use of extracurricular time.
3. Address the importance of parent-teacher communication on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum, parent-teacher conferences, frequent reports to parents/guardians, and reasonable access to staff.

PART V. ADOPTION

The Board shall adopt the Parent & Family Engagement policy which shall be incorporated into CCA's Title I plan and shall be evaluated during annual PAC meetings by the Federal Programs division with parental involvement, and updated as needed to meet changing needs or circumstances. Upon adoption, this policy shall remain in effect unless specifically amended.