

200 – School Operation

220: Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Title I, Part A is a Federal program that provides financial assistance to public schools with high numbers or percentages of poor children, as demonstrated by Free and Reduced Lunch numbers. These funds help ensure that all children progress toward meeting state academic content and student academic achievement standards.

North Carolina Virtual Academy (NCVA), in receiving Title I funds, strives to involve parents and family members in regular and meaningful communication addressing student achievement and ensuring that parents play a crucial role in their child's learning. Parents and family members can fulfill that role through active involvement and full partnerships by being included, as appropriate, in decision-making to assist in their child's education. Expectations for parents or Learning Coaches are clearly stated in the "I Will" section of the Parent/Student Handbook. We will involve families of children served in Title I, Part A in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent.

NCVA will carry out programs, activities, and procedures to offer opportunities for parents to participate in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. The role of the Family Engagement Specialist is critical in this function.

In compliance with Section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the NCVA agrees to implement required statutory requirements to involve parents in the following ways:

- Planning and development of relevant components of the Title I plan by selecting parents to attend NC Star Committee updates. In addition, all parents will be invited to complete a pulse check survey seven times a year to inform improvements and program developments.
- Reviewing, on an annual basis, the Title I Program; this will include evaluation of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and School-Parent Compact, and inviting all families to a yearly Title I virtual presentation (with presentation information also available via visuals and recordings for families unable to attend the live virtual presentation). This review will address and identify the following: barriers to greater parent and family participation, needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, and strategies to support successful school and family interactions.
- Using results from the Annual Review, the Head of School will meet with the NC Start Committee to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family involvement, and revise, as necessary, the Parent and Family Engagement policy. This meeting will occur live but will also be recorded so that families unable to attend can view it and allow families that need more time to understand the information and have the additional option to watch the video. The meeting will contain limited language accommodations and numerous visuals to help support those with limited language or low literacy skills.
- To address any identified barriers by having the Title I Coordinator invite feedback, make changes or bring information back to the NC Start Committee. This meeting will occur live but will also be recorded so that families unable to attend can view it, or families that need more time to understand the information have the option to watch. The meeting will contain limited language accommodations and numerous visuals to help support those with limited language or low literacy skills;
- Encouraging parents to be actively involved in their child's education at school by training parents to be Learning Coaches (LC) and inviting families to attend both -person and virtual training. LC's will be trained at the start of

the year then have various opportunities for additional learning throughout the year. This is organized by our Family Engagement Specialist, who ensures that advisors train all LC's a minimum of once monthly;

- Creating shared responsibility for high student academic achievement through the Parent-School Compact that will be signed by the student, parent, and school leader will outline responsibilities of both parents and teachers in the education of children.
- Provide technical assistance to staff, families, and stakeholders to enable them to be involved in education and activities. Every family will be assigned an advisor that reaches out throughout the year to offer support. The frequency of such contacts will be based on the level of support each family needs, as measured through academic data, log-in metrics, and parent surveys;
- Building dual capacity for involvement, focusing on providing assistance and/or materials to families, and educating teachers how to value and reach out to parents as equal partners. All staff members will work to make enduring connection calls throughout the year (which calls will be tracked) and provide trainings for LCs. In addition, families will be provided with materials needed to be successful (ex: computers, printers, etc.).
- Developing effective parent involvement activities through a Parent Alliance that discusses data every year. Parents will attend an NC Star Committee update to hear about current data and initiatives at the school.

We, as a school, will strive to make sure families understand topics that are important in developing the shared responsibility for high student academic achievement. These topics may include:

- State academic content standards by grade level;
- State student academic achievement results;
- State and local academic assessments to demonstrate proficiency or growth;
- State requirements of Title I, Part A; and
- How to monitor their child's progress.

Further, the school will work with parents and family members to build capacity for involvement by providing:

- ◇ Information on state standards, assessments, requirements of Title I, monitoring their child's progress, and working with educators.
- ◇ Materials, resources, and training help parents work with their children to improve academic achievement in clear and understandable manners.

This Parental Involvement Policy has been developed by including the following groups: teachers, administrators, families, and the board members. NCVA will distribute this policy to all family members of participating Title I children.