

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 are making 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 the education of their child. 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 1, 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 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:

- Planning and development of pertinent 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 this will help inform improvements and program developments;
- Reviewing, on an annual basis, the Title I Program, including the evaluation of the parent and family engagement policy and school-parent compact, by inviting all families to an annual Title 1 presentation that will be held virtually this information will also be available via visuals and recordings for families unable to attend live. This review will address and identify the following: barriers to the greater parent and family participation, needs of parents and family member to assist with the learning of their children, and strategies to support successful and school and family interactions;
- Using results from the Annual Review, the Head of School will meet with the NC Start Committee in order to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and revise, if 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 or families that need more time to understand the information have the option to watch. The meeting will contain limited language and lots of visuals to help support those with limited language or low literacy skills.
- to address any identified barriers by having the Title 1 Coordinator invite feedback and make changes or bring information back to the NC Start Committee. This meeting will occur live but also be recorded so that families unable to attend can view it or families that that need more time to understand the information have the option to watch. The

meeting will contain limited language and lot of 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 in person and virtual trainings. 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 Parent-School Compact that will be signed by the student, parent, and school leader which will outline responsible of both parents and teachers in the education of children;
- Provide technical assistance to ensure that staff, families, and stakeholders are able to be involved in education and activities by assigning every family to an advisor that reaches out throughout the year to offer support frequency of how often families are contact will be based on the level of support that family needs as measured through academic data, log in metrics, and parents surveys;
- Building dual capacity for involvement with a focus on providing assistance and/or materials to families as well as educating teachers how to value and reach out to parents as equal partners by ensuring that all staff members work to make enduring connection calls throughout the year which is tracked as well as providing trainings for LCs. In addition, families will be provided with materials needed to be successful (ex: computers, printers, etc.); and
- Developing effective parent involvement activities through a Parent Alliance that discusses data on a yearly basis by have parents attend a NC Star Committee update to hear about current data and initiatives at our 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 to 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.