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IVY PREP
ACADEMY

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PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY



WHAT IS FAMILY ENGAGEMENT?

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:

- That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- That parents 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.
- The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

ABOUT THE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Ivy Preparatory Academy Charter School (IPAK) has developed this Parent and Family Engagement Policy that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I school. This plan will describe IPAK's commitment to engaging families in the education of their children and to build the capacity of its Title I school to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals.

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and enjoy school more. Title I, Part A provides for substantive family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plan, and in carrying out the District and school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of ESSA contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children's education. The IPAK will ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policy meet the requirements of federal law and each includes, as a component, a school-parent compact.

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

During the annual stakeholder input meeting on May 3, 2023, parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the 2023-2024 school year. The district sent a Parent Square post to all parents informing them about this meeting and posted an announcement the PFE newsletter. During this meeting, parents also reviewed and discussed the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP), the school's Parent & Family Engagement Policy and Compact. Additionally, IPAK used its Parent Advisory Council to review the district Parent and Family Engagement Policy before the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

Upon final revision, the district Parent and Family Engagement Policy was incorporated into the CLIP which was submitted to the state. Parents were welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time on the school district's website or by submitting written comments to your child's school. All feedback received by June 9, 2023 was considered for revisions to this policy.

The district's plan to distribute this policy is to post it on the school's website and in parent resource centers, disseminate it during the annual Title I school meeting in the fall, and email the link to all parents in a format and language they can understand.

STRENGTHENING OUR SCHOOL

This year, IPAK's Parent & Family Engagement Coordinator will ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. IPAK's PFEC will participate in trainings and webinars to stay abreast of current practices to engage families. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the PFEC will hold monthly meetings and training with school administrators to review family engagement plans and activities.

Additionally, the PFEC will conduct staff training to share parent and family engagement requirements and plan opportunities for family engagement activities and meetings for the remainder of the school year.



Ivy hosted an annual School Improvement Forum in May for parents to provide suggestions on how these family engagement funds could be used in the upcoming year at the school level. Input and minutes from these meetings are shared with the Parent Advisory Team and the district leadership to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget. If you have suggestions, please contact the Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator at IPAK via email at pfe@ivyprepacademy.org.



2023 - 2024 SCHOOL GOALS

By spring 2024, Ivy will:

- Ivy will increase by six percentage points the number of scholars scoring at developing, proficient and distinguished levels on the ELA and mathematics portions of the Georgia Milestone Assessment by the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
- Ivy will decrease the number of discipline referrals, tardies, and absences by 10%.
- Increase the average number of parents attending workshops and engagement activities by 20%.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEANINGFUL PARENT CONSULTATION

Input and suggestions from parents, family members, and community partners are an essential component of the IPAK's school improvement plan developed each year. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to attend two meeting opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the school and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.

IVY PREPARATORY OPEN HOUSE

August 1 & 3, 2023

Ivy Prep informs parents of Ivy's instructional programs and school operations during Parent Academies. Information regarding Ivy Title programs are discussed. The PFEC shares information regarding volunteer opportunities, key events and trainings. Input is also solicited from parents on ways to increase engagement and improve school practices.

ANNUAL STAKEHOLDER INPUT MEETING

April 24, 2024

Parents are invited to hear the latest updates from the Ivy Preparatory Academy Charter School as well as review and provide input into the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan for the 2024-2025 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be sent out through Parent Square to all parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school's website.

Additional input is welcome at any time but particularly during our Annual Title I Meeting via survey or Parent Advisory Team Ambassadors.

ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

September 28, 2023

IPAK will host the Annual Title I Meeting for parents and community members to share what a Title I School is and how we can work in partnership to ensure scholar success. IPAK will send invitations home as well as email and text parents to notify them about the date and time. Information regarding the Annual Title I Meeting will also be made available on the school's website.

Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit www.ivyprepacademy.org to review the meeting documents and minutes and leave your input.

BUILDING CAPACITY

IPAK will build partnerships between the school, its families, and the community with the goal of developing mutual support for student achievement. To develop the capacity for this support, IPAK will implement a variety of family and community engagement initiatives. IPAK will conduct opportunities for teachers and families to partner to address academic goals through at-home learning activities.



OF PARENTS

IPAK will provide families with information about the overall Title I program and its requirements. The PFEC works with IPAK staff to help families understand academic expectations for student learning and progress. IPAK will help families understand the State's challenging academic standards and local and state assessments—including alternative assessment to foster teamwork in supporting scholars. IPAK also offers assistance to parents in understanding use of Infinite Campus & Parent Square as well as other digital resources, including the harms of copyright piracy. Notifications about these opportunities will be posted on the district website and shared through Parent Square, newsletters, and social media postings.

In addition, the school's website contains resources and materials such as parent tips, study guides, practice assessments, and materials for at-home learning. Hard copies of these materials can also be made available at school, including copies in Spanish.

The IPAK Parent Advisory Council, made up of parent representatives from each grade band, advises the school on all matters related to family engagement. Community leaders and business partners are also invited to serve on the council. The participation of all our partners is encouraged through video conferencing and recording options to accommodate varying schedules.

IPAK will coordinate and integrate the district's family engagement programs under this part with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs such as; the local preschool program and other federal and state funded preschool programs in the area. The district will invite faculty and staff from those programs to attend advisory meetings focused on family engagement activities. In the spring, schools will host Kindergarten preview, college and career week, BeYOUtiful You week, (focused on whole girl development), middle and high School transition nights so parents may receive information to help prepare them and their children for the next life stage.

OF SCHOOL STAFF

IPAK will conduct four training sessions during the school year for principals and school staff to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. IPAK will also host training for appropriate school staff and faculty that will focus on creating welcoming environments.

To ensure that information related to school parent programs and activities is available to all parents, IPAK is required to send home and post online information for parents and family members in an understandable language and uniform format. At the beginning of the year, school staff will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents' preferred language, where applicable, and provide interpreters at parent events and meetings. The information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school phone call systems, district and school websites, local news media, and social media to post information for parents.

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EVALUATION

Each year, IPAK will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the school through mid year and end of year parent survey and the School Improvement Forums.

Beginning in May, IPAK will send home a survey and email a link to the survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the school's website for parents to complete.

In addition to the parent surveys, IPAK will also use the School Improvement Forum to facilitate group discussions to discuss the needs of parents of children eligible to receive Title I services to design strategies for more effective family engagement. IPAK will use the findings from the school forums and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement policies





ACCESSIBILITY

In carrying out the Parent and Family Engagement Requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the District Parent & Family Engagement Coordinator will communicate with the Director of Special Student Services to ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children including providing information and school reports in a language parents can understand.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FOR PARENTS

IPA Open House

August 4, 2023

Annual Title I Meeting

September 28, 2023

Stakeholder Input Meeting

April 24, 2024

Parent Survey

December 2023

May 2024

SCHOOL EVENTS

Literacy Events

October 4, 2023

January 25, 2024

Parent Conferences

September 12, 14, 2023

December 18, 19, 20, 2023

February 6, 9, 2023

Math Events

October 18, 2023

January 25, 2024

March 19, 2024

Parent Support Events

Coffee and Conversations

October 25, 2023

November 17, 2023

February 22, 2024

April 10, 2024

ADOPTION

This Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel at the annual Stakeholder Input Meeting.

This policy was adopted by Ivy Preparatory Charter School on May 3, 2023, and will be effective for the 2023-2024 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children before the end of September, 2024