



Priority Charter Schools
Parent and Family Engagement Policy
ESSA Section 1116
2023-24

1. *Priority Charter Schools* will reach out to **all** parents and family members and implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents and family members in programs consistent with the requirements of ESSA Section 1116. Such programs, activities, and procedures shall be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children. Section 1116 (a)(1)

To facilitate excellent communication between parent and school personnel, Priority Charter Schools may utilize the following strategies: parent surveys, monthly newsletters, written notifications, phone calls, emails, School Messenger, Remind, and social media. PCS seeks to facilitate two-way communication between educators and parents.

2. *Priority Charter Schools* receives Title I, Part A funds. Our goal is to plan and implement effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. Therefore, *Priority Charter Schools* will develop **jointly** with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written **parent and family engagement policy**. Section 1116 (a)(2)
 - The policy shall be incorporated into the local educational agency's plan developed under section 1112 (District Improvement Plan, DIP),
 - The policy will establish the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement.

The policy is typically reviewed and revised during a meeting of the Parent Advisory Board during September. The policy is posted on the district website along with the District Improvement Plan (DIP).

3. *Priority Charter Schools* will **involve** parents and family members in jointly developing the local educational agency plan (DIP) under section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1111(d). Section 1116(a)(2)(A)

The District Improvement Plan (DIP) is typically updated in the summer and presented to the School Board in October. The DIP is posted on the website and emailed to all parents. Parents will have the opportunity to help review, plan for and make suggestions to improve the Title I program. The Parent Advisory Board provides input for the DIP.

4. *Priority Charter Schools* will **provide** the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the local educational agency, in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education. Section 1116 (a)(2)(B)

Priority Charter Schools will provide support and training to principals and teachers to promote parent and family engagement. PCS contracts with the Region 12 Education Service Center for support for planning and implementing Title 1 programs.

5. *Priority Charter Schools* will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under Title I, Part A, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and 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; Section 1116 (a)(2)(C) and Section 1116 (e)(4)

Principals at each campus will conduct an annual meeting where parents will learn about the requirements of the school’s Title I program. Parents will be given an opportunity to become involved with their child’s education. A letter or email will be sent to each child’s parents, informing them of the dates and times. Parent meetings and conferences held at different times during the day to accommodate the needs of the parents. Communications with parents will be in a format and a language that they can understand.

6. *Priority Charter Schools* will **conduct**, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools served under this part, including identifying— Section 1116 (a)(2)(D)
- barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by this section (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 needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and
 - strategies to support successful school and family interactions;

The Assistant Superintendent of Priority Charter Schools will facilitate the Parent Advisory Board. The effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be conducted in September. A parent survey will be conducted to collect feedback about barriers to family engagement and the needs of families.

7. *Priority Charter Schools* will use the findings of such evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policies; and Section 1116 (a)(2)(E)

When appropriate, a revised policy will be presented to the School Board for approval.

8. *Priority Charter Schools* will **involve** parents in the activities of the schools served under this part, which may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the local educational agency to adequately represent the needs of the population for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy and provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request.

Section 1116 (a)(2)(F) and Section 1116 (e)(14)

Parents and family members will have the opportunity to volunteer through organizations or as individuals at campuses. Members of the district Parent Advisory Board will be nominated by campus principals.

9. To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, *Priority Charter Schools* shall: Section 1116 (e)

- (i) providing assistance to parents of children served by the local educational agency, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of the parent and family engagement program, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children; Section 1116 (e)(1)

A description of the curriculum and assessments will be provided to parents via parent conferences and letters. The curriculum at PCS is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). PCS utilizes TEKS Resource System.

In addition to the STAAR assessments, students are assessed at the Beginning of Year, Middle of Year, and End of Year. Assessments include TPRI, mClass, STAAR interims, and Renaissance Star 360. Educators will conference with parents to develop and understanding of these assessments.

- (ii) providing materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement; Section 1116 (e)(2)

PCS distributes resources to parents including newsletters, educational websites, mental health awareness. At times PCS shares referrals for community events and resources (library, higher education, community partners, or churches). Campuses host events that support academic learning such as STEM or Literacy nights.

- (iii) educating teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, 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; Section 1116 (e)(3)

During a Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings, campus staff will receive training about best practices for Parent and Family Engagement. The Parent Advisory Board will review the training materials. PCS utilizes the Region 12 Education Service Center to support Title 1 initiatives including Parent and Family Engagement.

- (iv) ensuring that information related to school 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; Section 1116(e)(5)

Translated versions of the following documents will be available in written or oral format.

District Parent and Family Engagement policy (Spanish)

Campus Parent and Family Engagement policy (Spanish)

School – Parent Compact (Spanish)

District Improvement Plan (DIP)

Parent and Family Engagement newsletters (Spanish and other languages)

Signed by Authorized Official: Christie Bledsoe, Assistant Superintendent

Date: September 12, 2022