

Title I Parent & Family Engagement Policy & Compact

Purpose of this Policy and Compact

Efforts will be made to clearly articulate the school's intentions to engage with and involve parents/caregivers in the educational process.

Providence Elementary is a Title I school within Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) and utilizes the Title I grant to improve student achievement and help all students meet the objectives of the FCPS Program of Studies and the Virginia Standards of Learning. A partnership with families is essential to meeting this goal.

Under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, schools that receive Title I funds are expected to collaborate with families to develop and maintain a parent and family engagement policy that describes the school's approach to involve families in students' learning and includes a compact expressing the partnerships among staff, caregivers, and students to reach high academic goals for every student.

Providence Elementary jointly developed this policy and compact with members of the school community and adopted it for the 2017-2018 school year. A number of the provisions specifically address state or federal expectations for the policy and compact.

This policy and compact is distributed to all caregivers in a language that families can understand. Caregivers have opportunities to provide comments and feedback on the policy and compact through comment boxes housed in the Main office and parent resource center. Comments are submitted with the school's policy and compact to FCPS central offices and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). This policy and compact are made available to the broader school community through the school website.

Important Dates

Parent-Teacher Conferences

- November 6-7, 2017
- additional dates, as needed

Progress Report Distribution

- November 14, 2017
- February 6, 2018
- April 24, 2018
- June 15, 2018

School Events

- **BTSN and Annual Meeting: Sept 6 (K-2) Sept. 7 (3-6)**
- **PTA Movie Night: October 6, 2017**
- **STEAM Night: October 19, 2017**
- **Thanksgiving Luncheons: Nov. 9 (3-6) Nov. 10 (K-2), 2017**
- **Family Heritage Night: December 7, 2017**



Building Capacity for Involvement

Efforts will be made to ensure parents/caregivers are actively involved in the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the school's Title I program, including the following:

- ◇ Provide family members a voice in decision-making on committees, such as the school board's Title I Parent Advisory Committee, School Improvement Planning Team, PTA, etc.
- ◇ Engage caregiver input when developing the School Improvement Plan (SIP), Title I Schoolwide Plan, the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Compact, and plans for use of Title I family engagement funding.
- ◇ Seek feedback from families on programs within the Title I Schoolwide Plan, offer multiple methods for caregivers to submit comments about programs they may not find satisfactory, and submit any such comments with the Title I Schoolwide Plan to FCPS central offices.
- ◇ Invite family members to help in organizing and executing a variety of school events to build collective ownership, such as Family Open House and Ice Cream Social, Back to School Night, Family Heritage Night, Math, Science and Technology Night, Family BINGO Night, Sock Hop, Book Fair, and Fun Fair.
- ◇ Provide opportunities for caregivers to volunteer within the school in various ways, such as organizing classroom Tuesday Folders, Thanksgiving Luncheon deliveries, Vision and Hearing Screening assistance.
- ◇ Encourage families to take part in annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the division-level Title I parent and family engagement policy in order to identify:
 - ◇ barriers to greater family participation,
 - ◇ ways to help family members be better able to assist in student learning, and
 - ◇ strategies to support successful school and family interactions.

Effective Communication with Parents

Efforts will be made to ensure parents/caregivers receive meaningful communication in a timely manner, including the following:

- ◇ Use multiple methods of communication to families such as Keep in Touch and News You Choose messages through phone and texts. Twitter, Facebook, Tuesday folders for forms, notes, and event fliers, and regular web page updates of school news, calendars, and parent resource links.
- ◇ Encourage all caregivers to attend an annual meeting on September 6th (K-2) or September 7th (Gr. 3-6), to share information about Title I services, explain Title I grant requirements, and inform families of their right to be involved in the school.
- ◇ Share school and student performance data with families in ways that seek their ideas about how to improve performance toward Virginia's challenging academic standards, such as PTA Meetings and Principal Coffees.
- ◇ Provide opportunities throughout the year for families to better understand the school's goals for students and find ways to improve student learning by holding meetings.
- ◇ Maintain resources for caregivers to review student assignments and ongoing communication about student work, such as FCPS Parent View (Blackboard) and weekly teacher emails.
- ◇ Provide ongoing feedback on student progress through quarterly progress reports that show specific areas of proficiency and areas for continued growth.
- ◇ Hold parent-teacher conferences for all students at least annually in the fall and more often, as needed.

Shared Responsibilities for High Academic Achievement

Efforts will be made to ensure parents/caregivers receive materials, training, and benefits from school partnerships with social and academic services, community-based organizations, and businesses, including the following:

- ◇ Hold workshops connecting caregivers to tools and resources, such as It's Never Too Early to Learn About College, Getting to Know Your Child's School, and Positive Parenting, etc.
- ◇ Offer regular opportunities for families to learn directly from school staff about the school's academic, behavioral, and social programming through Parent Coffees, literacy/math evening and day events.
- ◇ Encourage participation in family learning events where parents learn strategies to support their child's learning at home and have a chance to practice those strategies with their child, such as STEAM night and Family Heritage Night.
- ◇ Provide ongoing access to resources in the school, such as parent resource center and assistance from our parent liaison.
- ◇ Provide mentors for students through partnerships with YRCI, Apple Federal Credit Union and NPM.
- ◇ Provide opportunities to donate and access supplies donated by others, such as school supplies, food and clothing.
- ◇ Leverage partnerships with local businesses and organizations to enhance school programs and events, such as Spring Fun Fair, Family Heritage night, and STEAM night.
- ◇ Support parents in accessing county and community resources, such as health care, counseling, and tutoring.
- ◇ Offer outreach and training for targeted families, such as HIPPY-Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters and the Parent Nutrition Program.

Welcoming All Families

Efforts will be made to ensure that all parents/caregivers are welcomed and provided opportunities to actively engage within the school, including the following:

- ◇ Create a welcoming atmosphere at the school with courteous faculty and staff, parent-friendly signs, availability of resources in multiple languages, etc.
- ◇ Provide interpretation services for parent-teacher conferences, workshops, and meetings.
- ◇ Translate or provide interpretation of all school documents and communication to make them accessible in the caregiver's preferred correspondence language and for those with vision or hearing impairments.
- ◇ Support two-way communication between families and staff through assistance of a parent liaison for outreach and a point of contact questions for families.
- ◇ Expand access for family participation in informational meetings and learning sessions by offering a variety of meeting times and translated sessions for school events.

Compact Provisions

School staff, parents/caregivers, and students must work together to ensure a student success.

The staff will:

Provide a high-quality curriculum and instruction that enables students to meet challenging academic standard through the following actions:

- ◇ Teach all students according to the state's challenging standards, using approved curriculum resources.
- ◇ Provide ongoing professional development and support to all teachers to ensure effective instructional practices are used in all classrooms.
- ◇ Monitor students' progress in an ongoing way through regular assessments and data reviews.

Provide a supportive and effective learning environment for students through the following actions:

- ◇ Provide clear expectations for student behavior and academic learning.
- ◇ Offer a variety of resources to help students with their learning.
- ◇ Allow multiple ways for students to demonstrate what they have learned.
- ◇ Involve students in choices about their learning.

Provide assistance to caregivers in understanding the school's program through the following actions:

- ◇ Hold an annual meeting to present information on the school's Title I programs, state and division curriculum and assessments, and the school's state and federal accountability status.
- ◇ Provide multiple opportunities for caregivers to ask questions and give input into the Title I programs.
- ◇ Hold a principal coffee for caregivers to learn more deeply about specific school programs.

Build caregivers' involvement in the school's Title I program through the following actions:

- ◇ Include caregivers as members of the School Improvement Planning (SIP) Committee and as collaborators in developing the Title I Schoolwide Plan and plans for the use of Title I family engagement funds.
- ◇ Hold curriculum night events where caregivers and their children practice academic strategies that they can use to support literacy and mathematics learning at home.

The parents/caregivers will:

Demonstrate understanding that participation in my child's education will help his or her achievement through the following actions:

- ◇ Participate in decisions related to school programs and my child's education, and share my questions or comments about the programs in my child's school.
- ◇ Volunteer in my child's classroom or in school activities, as my schedule allows.
- ◇ Encourage and support my child's learning at home and at school.
- ◇ Read each night with my child.
- ◇ Review all school communications and return the weekly Tuesday Communicator.
- ◇ Maintain continued communication with the school, send my child to school daily, on time, well rested and pre-pared with assignments.

The student will:

Share the responsibility to improve my academic learning to achieve the state's challenging standards through the followings actions:

- ◇ Get enough sleep every night.
- ◇ Cooperate with my parents during homework.
- ◇ Try my hardest and work with my classmates to complete learning tasks.
- ◇ Give my parents all notes and papers from my teacher.
- ◇ Read either independently or with a parent every night.
- ◇ Talk about my school day with a parent.
- ◇ Pay attention to the teacher in class Come to school on time every day, prepared, and ready to learn.

