Purpose of the Policy and Compact

Fairfax County Public Schools’ (FCPS) 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 parents to develop and maintain a family engagement policy that describes the school’s approach to involve families in students’ learning and a school-home compact that expresses the partnerships among staff, caregivers, and students to reach for high academic achievement for every student. This Family Engagement Policy and School-Home Compact outlines shared responsibilities to attain this goal.

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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:

- Hold an annual meeting on October 29, 2015, inviting and encouraging all parents to attend, to share information about Title I services within the school and to explain grant requirements and the right of parents to be involved in the school.
- Hold regular parent meetings, coffees, and events, and offer ongoing access to parent resources through the school’s parent liaison, parent resource center, and Parent Teacher Association (PTA) functions.
- 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.
- Expand access for parent participation in informational meetings and learning sessions by offering a variety of meeting times and translated sessions for school events.
Decision-Making and Advocacy

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:

◊ Include parent members with 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 parent input when developing the School Improvement Plan (SIP), Title I Schoolwide Components, and Title I Family Engagement Policy and School-Home Compact.

◊ Seek feedback from parents on the school’s programs and offer multiple methods for parents to submit comments about any schoolwide programs they may not find satisfactory.

◊ Provide reading and writing events with the assistance of the PTA, including the Providence Writing Anthology and the Reading Iditarod Contest.

◊ Provide opportunities within the school such as assist with extra reading and math activities in the classroom, including the Northern Virginia Women’s Assistance League.

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 messages through phone and texts, Twitter, Facebook, Tuesday folders for forms, notes, and event fliers, and regular web updates of school news, calendars, and parent resource links.

◊ Translate or provide interpretation of most school communication to make it accessible to parents with a preferred correspondence language other than English.

◊ Support two-way communication between parents and staff through assistance of a parent liaisons for outreach and a point of contact for questions for families.

◊ Maintain FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard) courses for parents to retrieve information regarding classroom assignments and long-term projects.

◊ Share school and student achievement data with families in ways that solicit their ideas about how to improve performance.

◊ Hold meetings and events throughout the year to help with families to better understand the school’s goals for students and find ways to improve student learning.

◊ Hold parent-teacher conferences for all students at least annually and more often, as needed.

◊ Provide ongoing feedback on student progress through progress reports that show specific areas of proficiency and areas for continued growth, information about performance on assignments, through grades, teacher notes, emails, phone calls, etc.

“Family is not an important thing, it’s everything.”

~ Michael J. Fox
Supporting School Success

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

◊ Hold parent workshops on topics such as It’s Never Too Early To Learn About College, Getting to Know Your Child’s School, Positive Parenting, etc.

◊ Offer regular opportunities for parents to learn directly from school staff about the school’s academic, behavioral, and social programming through Parent Coffees, literacy/math evening and day events.

◊ Provide family participation events throughout the school year, including the Family Open House and Ice Cream Social, Back To School Night, Family Heritage Night, Math, Science and Technology Night, Family BINGO Night, the Sock Hop, the Book Fair, SOL Night, and Fun Fair.

◊ Provide extra learning opportunities with parental assistance to prepare students for successfully passing their spring SOL tests, including the Early Learning Lab and the After School Learning Seminar.

◊ Implement the Patterns of Thinking to improve student achievement and provide workshops for parents to learn about this method their children are using in the classroom.

◊ Provide mentors for students through partnerships with: YRCI, Apple Federal Credit Union, & National Pest Management.

◊ Support parents in accessing county and community resources such as health care, counseling, tutoring, etc. through the school social worker, parent liaisons, and Neighborhood Networks.

“Coming together is a beginning;\
keeping together is progress;\
working together is success.”
~Henry Ford

Purpose of the Policy and Compact (Continued from page 1)

Providence ES jointly developed this Family Engagement Policy and School-Home Compact with members of the school community and adopted it for the 2015-2016 school year. A number of the provisions specifically address state or federal expectations for the policy and compact.

This policy is distributed to all parents and provided in a language that parents can understand. Parents have opportunities to provide comments and feedback on the policy and compact through comment boxes housed in the Main Office and parent resource center. This policy is made available to the broader school community through the school website and availability of paper copies.
School-Home Compact Provisions

The partnership between home and school is the key to success for students. We understand our roles in this partnership and know that together we can make a positive impact on student achievement.

**Staff/Teacher**
We understand the importance of the school experience to every student and our role as educators in helping every child achieve. We agree to carry out our professional responsibilities to the best of our abilities. We will:

- To teach concepts to your child in accordance with the State Standards of Learning
- To provide appropriate assessment, instruction, and materials to meet individual student needs
- To maintain regular and open communication with parents regarding their child’s progress
- To provide appropriate learning experiences in a positive learning environment Create a safe and positive learning environment by supporting the core values of being Respectful, Responsible, and Ready.

**The Parents/Caregivers will:**

I understand that participation in my child’s education is important to his/her achievement in school. I will:

- Attend Back To School night, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Open House, Parent Workshops, and family school events
- Review all school communications and return the weekly Tuesday Communicator
- Read each night with my child
- Maintain continued communication with the school, send my child to school daily, on time, well rested and prepared with assignments.

**The Student will:**

I realize that my education is important and that I am responsible for my own success. I will:

- Read either independently or with a parent every night
- Talk about my school day with a parent
- Cooperate with my parents during homework
- Pay attention to the teacher in class Come to school on time every day, prepared, and ready to learn.