

PLACER ACADEMY CHARTER **PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

Placer Academy Charter Schools (“PAC” or the “Charter School”) has developed a written Parent and Family Engagement Policy (“Policy”) with input from Title I parents and families. PAC has distributed the Policy to parents of Title I students by posting on the website and providing available copies in the office. This Policy describes the means for carrying out the following Title I parent and family engagement requirements.

Charter School Expectations and Objectives

In establishing the Charter School’s expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement, PAC has established the following practices:

1. PAC involves parents and family members in the joint development of the Charter School’s Parent and Family Engagement Plan through the Placer Advisory Committee, holding community town halls and meetings, etc.
2. PAC provides the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity within the Charter School 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 via parent workshops with particular emphasis on curricular support.
3. PAC coordinates and integrates parent and family engagement strategies to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant federal, state, and local laws and programs.
4. PAC conducts, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Policy in improving the academic quality at the Charter School through an annual review of the Policy and strategic analysis of metrics and data.
5. PAC conducts, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of barriers to greater participation by parents/families (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). This may include reaching out individually to families.
6. PAC conducts, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with Charter School personnel and teachers via parent workshops and parent information nights.

7. PAC conducts, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of strategies to support successful Charter School and family interactions via town hall meetings, surveys, and Placer Advisory Council meetings.
8. PAC uses the findings of the annual evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental and family engagement, and to revise, if necessary, the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.
9. PAC involves parents in the activities of the Charter School through the Placer Advisory Council to adequately represent the needs of the population.

Involvement of Parents in the Title I Program

To involve parents in the Title I program at PAC, the following practices have been established:

1. PAC convenes an annual meeting to inform parents of Title I students about Title I requirements and about the right of parents to be involved in the Title I program. PAC holds an annual Title I meeting (Back to School Night) to which all parents of participating children will be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents and family members of their school's participation in the Title I program, and to explain to parents the requirements and the right of the parents to be involved.
2. PAC offers a flexible number of meetings for Title I parents, such as meetings (Placer Advisory Council, Open House, Parent workshops, etc.) in the morning or evening.
3. PAC involves parents of Title I students in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the Charter School's Title I programs and the Parent and Family Engagement Policy through the Placer Advisory Council.
4. PAC provides parents of Title I students with timely information about Title I programs through Back to School nights, parent workshops, etc.
5. PAC provides parents of Title I students with a description and explanation of the curriculum used at the Charter School, the assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet via the school website and through the Student Handbook notification.
6. If requested by parents of Title I students, PAC provides opportunities for regular meetings that allow the parents to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children.

The Policy must be updated periodically to meet changing needs of parents and the Charter School. If PAC has a process in place for involving parents in planning and designing the Charter School's programs, the school may use that process if it includes adequate representation of parents of Title I children.

School-Parent Compact

PAC distributes to parents of Title I students a School-Parent Compact (the “Compact”). The Compact, which has been jointly developed with parents, outlines how parents, the entire Charter School staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. It describes specific ways the Charter School and families will partner to help children achieve the State’s high academic standards. It addresses the following legally required items, as well as other items suggested by parents of Title I students:

1. PAC’s responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction to meet the challenging State academic standards.
2. The ways parents will be responsible for supporting their children’s learning, volunteering in the classroom, and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time.
3. The importance of ongoing communication between parents and teachers through, at a minimum, annual parent-teacher conferences; frequent reports on student progress; access to staff; opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate in their child’s class; and opportunities to observe classroom activities and ensuring regular communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand.

The Placer Advisory Committee reviews the School-Parent Compact annually. The Compact is distributed via the Student handbook. A copy of the Compact is attached to the Policy.

Building Capacity for Involvement

PAC engages Title I parents in meaningful interactions with the Charter School. The Charter School supports a partnership among staff, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. To help reach these goals, PAC has established the following practices.

1. PAC provides Title I parents with assistance in understanding challenging state academic standards, state and local assessments, and how to monitor and improve the achievement of their children via parent workshops.
2. PAC provides Title I parents with materials and training, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, to help them work with their children to improve their children's achievement via parent workshops.
3. With the assistance of Title I parents, PAC educates staff members about the value of parent contributions, and in how to reach out, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and the Charter School via continued staff development.

4. PAC coordinates and integrates the Title I parental involvement program with other programs, and conducts other activities, such as parent resource centers, to encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.
5. PAC distributes information related to Charter School and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to Title I parents in a format and language that the parents understand. All materials are translated to home language as needed.
6. PAC provides support for parental involvement activities requested by Title I parents.

Accessibility

PAC provides opportunities for the participation of all Title I parents and family members, including parents/family with limited English proficiency, parents/family with disabilities, and parents/family of migratory students. Information and school reports are provided in a format and language that parents/family understand. All materials are translated to home language as needed.