

3A.06.008 Family Engagement Policy

Excelsior Academy believes that ongoing parental engagement is imperative to the success of students. As a school receiving Title I funding, we encourage parents to participate as volunteers, by attending board meetings, and participating in the Family School Organization.

Excelsior Academy recognizes that some students may need the extra assistance available through the Title I program to reach the state's high academic standards. Excelsior Academy intends to include parents in all aspects of the school's Title I program. The goal is a school-home partnership that will help all students to succeed.

Excelsior Academy will jointly develop/revise with parents the Family Engagement policy and distribute it to parents of participating children and make the policy available to the local community. The policy will be discussed annually in a board meeting. Parent input will be invited and encouraged. The board will approve the policy.

Communication with parents is an essential building block in the success of individual students. Excelsior Academy will communicate pertinent information with parents regarding parent engagement, their child's achievement, and the school's performance. This will include, but is not limited to, the following; a weekly newsletter sent through email and posts on our social media and website. In the elementary, school-wide communication from teachers and administration are also sent home on a weekly learning plan with individual students. For both the elementary and middle school, progress reports are available through the school's SIS. Paper copies are available in each respective front office. Translation in other languages will be available as needed and to the extent possible. For further assistance or support, please contact the front office at 435-882-3062

As required by federal law and this policy, Excelsior Academy will convene a Title I orientation meeting annually in conjunction with our "Parent Orientation" at the beginning of each school year. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend. The purpose of the meeting will be to inform parents of Excelsior Academy's participation under Title I and to explain parent's rights to be involved in their student's education. Administration or teachers will also inform parents about curriculum, State academic standards, forms of assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.

School administration will utilize a School-Parent-Student compact. The purpose of the compact is to increase student academic achievement by outlining responsibilities of parents, school staff, and students. The compact shall address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis. The compact shall be distributed to all parents through our newsletter and the time of registration. The Compact shall be discussed annually in a parent teacher conference as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement. Translation in other languages will be available as needed and to the extent possible.

Excelsior Academy will collect suggestions and comments from parents on an annual basis with a school survey. This information will be provided to parents, and considered in the revision of this policy, to evaluate the academic quality of our school, and to design strategies for more effective family engagement.

In addition, Parent Education Meetings will be held, at a minimum, quarterly with an effort to accommodate various parent schedules. Parent Education Meetings will educate on topics including, but not limited to, curriculum, behavior policy, literacy, technology, volunteer opportunities, and student organization.

Excelsior Academy will utilize our Family School Organization (FSO) to organize school and parent engagement programs and activities to the extent feasible and appropriate.

References:

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/sw/t1/parentfamilyinvolve.asp>