



Parent and Family Engagement Policy

ESSA Section 1116

Purpose

Etoile Academy's purpose is to cultivate an in-depth partnership between the Parent/Families and school, to support and secure solid and effective partnerships among parents, families, schools, and the community to improve academic quality and student performance. To provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist schools in planning and implementing effective Family Engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. Lastly, to comply with Title I, Part A requirements regarding the establishment of a Parent and Family Engagement policy according to Section 116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Parent and Family Engagement- shall mean the participation of parents and families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

- a. that parent/families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- b. that parent/families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- c. that parent/families are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and
- d. the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1116 of the ESSA.

Title I- Title I, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act, provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools to improve the academic achievement of disadvantaged students. This grant is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Etoile Academy Charter School is committed to fostering and promoting Family Engagement and strives to maximize engagement by implementing programs, activities, and procedures that emphasize effective families-school-community partnership and shared responsibility for high academic achievement and student success. To accomplish this goal, these initiatives will be planned and implemented by:

- a. Fostering a welcoming and responsive environment for all families regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, age, socio-economic status, political beliefs, or any other protected affiliation
- b. Promoting family and community engagement participation in a school district, learning network, and school-level decisions;
- c. Increasing access to information to assist parents/families in navigating the school district so their children can obtain the resources required to help them achieve their maximum academic potential;
- d. Responding to parent/family concerns and/or complaints to ensure children's educational needs are met;

- e. Providing parents/families opportunities to acquire necessary information, knowledge, and skills to build capacity for leadership and advocacy to support their children's education at home and school;
- f. Ensuring accountability of staff at all levels throughout our charter in working with parents/families as partners; and
- g. Setting high expectations for excellent customer service

STATUTORY REQUIREMENT

- A. Etoile Academy 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). Etoile will use the following methods to communicate with parents
 - a. Dean list
 - b. Daily communication log
 - c. Weekly Calls and Text messages by school teachers and staff
 - d. Families Surveys
 - e. Flyers
 - f. Scheduled Robo-calls
 - g. Parent Conferences
 - h. Website (www.etoileacademy.com)
- B. Etoile Academy 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, Etoile Academy will develop jointly with, agree with, and distribute a written parent and Family Engagement policy to parents and family members of participating children. Section 1116 (a)(2)
 - a. The policy shall be incorporated into the local educational agency's plan developed under section 1112 (District Improvement Plan, DIP),
 - b. The policy will establish the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement.
- C. Etoile Academy 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)
- D. Etoile Academy 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 families 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 families members in education. Section 1116 (a)(2)(B)

- E. Etoile Academy 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)
- F. Etoile Academy 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)
 - a. 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);
 - b. the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and
 - c. strategies to support successful school and family interactions;
- G. Etoile Academy 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)
- H. Etoile Academy 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 families 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)
- I. To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, Etoile Academy shall: Section 1116 (e)
 - a. 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)
 - b. 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)
 - c. 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)
- d. 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)

DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE ETOILE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

Etoile Academy will take the following actions to involve parent/families in the joint development of its school-wide parent and Family Engagement plan under section 1112 of the ESSA:

- A. Annually, Etoile Academy will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the school-wide parent and Family Engagement policy, activities and programs.
- B. In the spring, parent/families and community stakeholders are invited to participate in multiple focus groups to provide valuable feedback regarding the school-wide parent and Family Engagement policy. Parent/families are notified of the focus groups in multiple ways, email, flyers, robo calls, social media, and website announcements posted on the Charter's website. During the focus groups, participants hear the latest updates and provide input on the new/revised policy. Additions/deletions/revisions are discussed and agreed upon during the meetings. Formatting and revisions are made after the meeting and then sent back to participants for comment. Families and community stakeholders unable to attend the focus groups in person have an opportunity to participate via online format, allowing them time to review the document and submit input and feedback electronically.
- C. Parent/families will be welcomed to submit feedback at any time throughout the year via the Charter's website or by submitting comments to their child's school by Possip. All feedback and input received will be used in consideration when updating the proceeding year's policy.
- D. Once the School-wide parent and Family Engagement policy is finalized, the final document will be placed on the Charter's website; hard copies will be available at Annual Title I meetings held at each school, and will also be distributed and sent home with all students.
- E. The charter will send a directive regarding the distribution of the Charter's policy to parents/families and staff. Etoile Academy will take the following actions to involve parent/families in the process of school review and improvement under section 1114 of the ESSA:
- F. Etoile Academy shall have an active and engaged School Advisory Council (SAC) composed of majority family members, the school principal, teachers or other school-based staff, students and community members, which champions the work for improved student achievement, effective teaching in the classroom, Parent/Family and

community engagement in the educational process, and facilitates communication and support.

- a. Appropriate District representatives will be available to work collaboratively with parent/family leaders and the Office of Family and Community Engagement staff to provide District, learning network, and school level trainings on various aspects of Title I, including understanding school data, comprehensive school plans and budgeting process.
- b. Schools will develop means to obtain Parent/Family input and signatures of non-school district personnel on the Comprehensive Plan, Title I budget and Campus Improvement Plan (CIP).
- c. Provide adequate advance notice to Parent/Family of meetings and cancellation of meetings through newsletters, robo calls, bulletin boards, organized parent/family groups, possip, and notices sent home.
- d. Professional development will be provided to School Advisory Councils (school-based staff, students, families and community partners) or other organized parent/family groups to help understand the roles and responsibilities of all parties in this process.
- e. Per our Translation policy located in the Etoile will provide Parent/Families with Spanish translation and interpretation services.