

Journey School

Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Reviewed and approved April 27, 2023

Journey School (School) is a public charter school that operates a single charter school serving students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The School, acting as its own local educational agency, adopts this Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy (Policy) in accordance with Title I, Part A (Title I), of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, to ensure that it provides objectives, expectations, and procedures for meaningful parent and family engagement in carrying out the School's obligations under Title I, including the planning and implementation of its Title I program.

The School jointly developed this Policy with the input of parents and family members of Title I students (referred to throughout this Policy as "the Title I Parent Community"). This Policy, and the strategies, practices, and supports set forth herein, are reviewed and revised annually and apply to the Title I Parent Community.

Involvement of the Title I Parent Community in the Title I Program

To ensure that the Title I Parent Community is involved in jointly developing this Policy and the School's Title I plan, the School implements the following strategies, activities, and practices:

1. The School convenes an annual meeting to inform the Title I Parent Community about the requirements under Title I, including the School's programs, activities, and procedures for parent and family involvement in the Title I program.

The School offers various opportunities for parent and family outreach and involvement for the Title I Parent Community. The School offers, among other things, the following parent meetings, which take place

- Back to School Night
- New Parent Orientation
- Class Meetings (held 4 times yearly)
- Parent Coffee Talks
- Title I Annual Meeting(s)

At a minimum, the School will include an agenda item every year at one of the above-mentioned meetings that will specifically address parent and family outreach and involvement in the development and implementation of the School's Title I program, including the development of the Title I plan.

In the event that the Title I plan is not satisfactory to a parent of a Title I student, the School will submit parent comments with the Title I plan when the School submits the plan to the California Department of Education.

2. The School offers a flexible number of meetings for the Title I Parent Community.

The meetings will typically take place during the school day. However, if a meeting is held to specifically discuss the School's Title I program, the meeting will also be offered in the morning and/or evening to help ensure parent involvement.

3. The School involves the Title I Parent Community in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the School's Title I programs and this Policy.

Parents will be given the opportunity to develop, review, and revise the School's Title I plan and this Policy at the meetings described above. Parent-members of the School Council (Governing Board) are also provided the opportunity to provide their input from the community.

4. The School provides the Title I Parent Community with timely information about Title I programs.

The School implements, among other things, the following strategies: include this Policy in the School Handbook, which is provided to parents and families every year; include a copy of this Policy on the School's website at all times; provide parents a letter at the beginning of the school year describing the opportunities for their children to receive additional academic support; staff provide regular updates to the Title I Parent Community regarding program supports; issue school newsletters to provide updates as appropriate.

5. The School provides parents and family members of Title I students with a description and explanation of the curriculum used at the School, the forms of assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.

The School implements, among other things, the following strategies: makes available the School's charter petition, as well as the school curriculum and standards, on the School's website; offer parent orientations/information before enrollment in which the unique curriculum and outcomes of the School are explained; discuss student outcomes several times a year at the public meetings of the Governing Board; parent members of the Government Board are provided an avenue for additional parental input into the curriculum, assessments, and student outcomes; during the charter renewal process, stakeholders from the parent community provide input into any modifications to curriculum, assessment and outcomes that may be needed to improve student academic achievement.

6. If requested by parents of Title I students, the School will provide opportunities for regular meetings to allow the parents, as appropriate, to formulate suggestions and participate in decisions relating to the education of their children.

As noted under item #1, the School offers the Title I Parent Community with various opportunities to provide input into all aspects of the School's program, including its Title I program.

Involvement of Title I Parent Community in the Joint Development of the Title I Plan

The School will ensure that the Title I Parent Community is jointly involved in the development of the School's Title I plan and in the development of school support and improvement plans that meet the requirements of Title I.

The School may, among other things, implement the following strategies:

1. Invite input on the Title I plan from School committees, administrators, and staff.
2. Communicate with the Title I Parent Community through newsletters, website, meetings or other methods regarding the Title I plan and the opportunity to provide input.

Coordination, Technical Assistance, and Other Support

The School provides coordination, technical assistance, and other supports necessary to assist and build the capacity in the School's planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement 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.

The School may, among other things, implement the following strategies:

1. Assign a liaison regarding Title I engagement issues.
2. Identify funding and other resources, including community resources and services, that may be used to strengthen the School and the Title I Parent Community engagement programs.
3. Provide training to appropriate staff regarding the Title I requirements, leaderships strategies, and communication skills to facilitate the planning and implementation of related activities.
4. Provide information to appropriate staff about the indicators and assessment tools that will be used to monitor progress.

Coordinate and Integrate Title I Parent Community Strategies

The School coordinates and integrates the Title I parent and engagement strategies with other programs and conducts other activities to encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

The School may, among other things, implement the following strategies:

1. Identify overlapping or similar program requirements.
2. Involve school-site administrators from other programs to assist in identifying specific population needs.
3. Develop a cohesive, coordinated plan focused on student needs and shared goals.

Annual Evaluation

The School conducts, with meaningful involvement of the Title I Parent Community, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Policy in improving the academic quality of the School's Title I program, including identification of:

1. Barriers to greater participation in parent and family engagement activities, 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.
2. The needs of the Title I Parent Community, so they can better assist with their child's learning and engage with School personnel and teachers.
3. Strategies to support successful School and family interactions.

The School may, among other things, implement the following strategies:

1. Use a variety of methods, such as surveys and townhall meetings, to evaluate the satisfaction of parents and staff with the quality of the School's communications.
2. Gather and monitor data regarding the number of parents and family members participating in the School's activities and types of activities they are engaged in.

The School will use the findings of the evaluations to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and will revise, if necessary, this Policy.

School-Parent Compact

~~The School annually distributes to the Title I Parent Community a school-parent compact (known as a Parent School Agreement or MOU). The compact, which is jointly developed with the Title I Parent Community, outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic~~

~~achievement. It describes specific ways the school and families will partner to help children achieve the State's high academic standards.~~

~~The Parent School Agreement addresses the following items, as well as other items suggested by the Title I Parent Community:~~

- ~~• The School's responsibility to provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment.~~
- ~~• The ways parents will be responsible for supporting their children's learning; volunteering opportunities in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time.~~
- ~~• The importance of ongoing communication between parents and teachers through, at a minimum, annual parent teacher conferences during which the Parent School Agreement will be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement; frequent reports on student progress; reasonable access to staff; opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate in their child's class; opportunities to observe classroom activities; and regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members understand.~~

~~Parental involvement in development of the compact occurs each year prior to the re-enrollment window. The method to receive parental input as described herein and applies to both this Policy and the Parent School Agreement.~~

Building Capacity for Involvement

The School engages the Title I Parent Community in meaningful ways to ensure effective parent involvement in the School's Title I programs. It supports a partnership among staff, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. To help reach these goals, the School has established the following practices:

1. Assist parents of Title I students in understanding the State's academic content standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of Title I, and how to monitor and improve the achievement of their children.

The School, among other things, offers parent orientations, campus tours and open houses, class meetings, school festivals, and community meetings, which address these items.

2. The School provides the Title I Parent Community with materials and training to help them work with their children to improve their children's achievement.

The School offers, among other things, a parent education series, during which parents are provided with training and tools to foster parent involvement and assist in their children's academic success.

3. With the assistance of the Title I Parent Community, the School educates staff members about the value of parent contributions, and in how to work with parents as equal partners.

The School, among other things, implements the following strategies: trains teachers at the beginning of the year, and throughout the year, on how to develop meaningful relationships and excellent communication with parents; offers significant volunteer opportunities for parents; and parent volunteer hours are encouraged (but not required) for all parents. This in turn allows teachers to develop long term positive relationships with parents.

4. The School coordinates and integrates parent involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local 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.

All parent involvement activities described herein are implemented throughout the entire school so that all parents, including the Title I Parent Community, have resources and opportunities for meaningful engagement in the School's programs and in their child's education.

5. The School distributes information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to parents of Title I students in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that the parents can understand.

Involvement of the Title I Parent Community

The School provides support for parental involvement activities requested by the Title I Parent Community. The School, among other things, implements the following strategies: communicate information about school activities in the School's publications to the Title I Parent Community; to the extent practicable, assists schools with translation services or other accommodations needed to encourage participation of the Title I Parent Community; and establishes processes to encourage parent input regarding their expectations and concerns for their children.

Inclusion of Parents

The School, to the extent practicable, provides opportunities for the participation of all parents of Title I students, including parents and family members with limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children. Information and school reports are provided in a format and language that parents understand.

Parent Access to this Policy

At the start of every school year, this Policy is distributed to all parents, including the Title I Parent Community, via the School Handbook. This Policy is also available on the School's website.