
PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Excel Academy Charter Schools and its programs (“Excel Academy” or the “Charter School”) has developed a written Parent and Family Engagement Policy (“Policy”) with input from Title I parents and families. Excel Academy has distributed the Policy to parents of Title I students by posting it on the school website and including it in the EACS Handbook. This Policy describes the means for carrying out the following Title I parent and family engagement requirements.

Excel Academy Expectations and Objectives

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

1. Excel Academy involves parents and family members in the joint development of the Charter School’s Parent and Family Engagement Plan.
 - a. Community Meetings
 - b. Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Meetings
 - c. Schoolsite Council (SSC) Meetings
 - d. English Learner Advisory Council (ELAC) Meetings
 - e. Stakeholder surveys

2. Excel Academy provides the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to build capacity within the Charter School in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student performance. These activities may include: consultation with employers, business leaders, philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education.
 - a. Parent trainings and webinars
 - b. Implementation of field trips, special programs, and marketing
 - c. School-Parent Compact
 - d. Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA)

3. Excel Academy coordinates and integrates parent and family engagement strategies to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant federal, state, and local laws and programs.
 - a. Title I, Part A

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

4. Excel Academy 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.
 - a. Stakeholder surveys
 - b. Annual updates and communications related to our LCAP and SPSA
 - c. Revisiting the Parent and Family Engagement Policy annually
 - d. Announcing teacher qualifications through Parent Right to Know Letters
 - e. Collaborating together annually to update Parent-School Compact

5. Excel Academy 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).
 - a. PAC
 - b. SSC
 - c. ELAC
 - d. LCAP
 - e. SPSA
 - f. Stakeholder Survey Data
 - g. Communication and access to the staff are conducted and available through learning period meetings, school email and ParentSquare communication, and school social media platforms.
 - h. Implementation of field trips, special programs, and marketing
 - i. Translators and/or other accommodations are provided, upon request, in order to fully support family participation.

6. Excel Academy 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 Excel Academy Charter School personnel and teachers.
 - a. PAC
 - b. SSC
 - c. ELAC
 - d. Parent trainings and webinars
 - e. Stakeholder surveys
 - f. LCAP and SPSA input

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

7. Excel Academy conducts, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of strategies to support successful Charter School and family interactions.
 - a. PAC
 - b. SSC
 - c. ELAC
 - d. Parent trainings and webinars
 - e. Stakeholder surveys
 - f. LCAP and SPSA input

8. Excel Academy 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.
 - a. Leadership team evaluates the data received from the following items and makes the needed adjustments to increase effective parental and family engagement:
 - b. PAC
 - c. SSC
 - d. ELAC
 - e. Parent trainings and webinars
 - f. Stakeholder surveys
 - g. LCAP and SPSA input

9. Excel Academy involves parents in the activities of the Charter School to adequately represent the needs of the population.
 - a. PAC
 - b. SSC
 - c. ELAC
 - d. Parent trainings and webinars
 - e. Stakeholder surveys
 - f. LCAP and SPSA input

Involvement of Parents in the Title I Program

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

1. Excel Academy 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.

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

- a. Meeting will be held virtually with email and social media invitations being sent out to all parents of Title I eligible students.
2. Excel Academy offers a flexible number of meetings for Title I parents, such as meetings in the morning or evening.
 - a. The school will offer virtual meetings, along with a recorded version and an opportunity to submit questions.
3. Excel Academy 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. This is completed through the following:
 - a. PAC
 - b. SSC
 - c. ELAC
 - d. Parent trainings and webinars
 - e. Stakeholder surveys
 - f. LCAP and SPSA input
4. Excel Academy provides parents of Title I students with timely information about Title I programs.
 - a. Parent/Student Handbook
 - b. Receipt of Policies
 - c. Continual school announcements & highlights through ParentSquare
 - d. Direct communication via email or ParentSquare to parents of Title I students
5. Excel Academy provides parents of Title I students with an 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.
 - a. EACS Handbook
 - b. Excel Academy's School website
 - c. Excel Academy's ParentSquare Platform
 - d. Parent trainings and webinars
6. If requested by parents of Title I students, Excel Academy 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.
 - a. Meeting will be held virtually for all parents of Title I eligible students
 - b. LCAP stakeholder information meeting

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

The Policy must be updated periodically to meet changing needs of parents and the Charter School. If Excel Academy 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

Excel Academy 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. Excel Academy's responsibility is 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 by 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, monthly learning period meetings; frequent reports on student progress; access to staff; opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate in their child's education; and regular communication between family members and school staff

The Charter School developed the Compact with Title I parent input and the Charter School distributes the Compact to Title I parents electronically. [Title I School- Parent Compact](#)

Building Capacity for Involvement

Excel Academy 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, Excel Academy has established the following practices.

1. Excel Academy 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.
 - a. Parent trainings and webinars
 - b. Excel Academy Newsletter

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

- c. Learning period meetings with Teacher of Record
 - d. Frequent communication via email and/or ParentSquare
2. Excel Academy provides Title I parents with materials and training, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, to help them work with their children to improve their children's achievement.
 - a. Parent training and webinars
 - b. Parent resources found on the Excel Academy Charter School website
 - c. SSC, ELAC, and PAC meetings
 - d. Observation of Live Instruction
 - e. Specially Designed Academic Instruction and Curriculum
3. With the assistance of Title I parents, Excel Academy 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.
 - a. Staff professional development
 - b. Staff participation in family and student outreach events
4. Excel Academy coordinates and integrates the Title I parental involvement program with other programs, and conducts other activities to encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.
 - a. Parent trainings and webinars
 - b. The school will provide parent and student outreach events.
5. Excel Academy 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.
 - a. Meetings will be held in person or virtually with email and/or ParentSquare invitations
6. Excel Academy provides support for parental involvement activities requested by Title I parents.
 - a. EACS will provide parent and student outreach events, such as Parent Summit, Back to School Events, Science Fair, Field Trips, Inquiry Workshops, etc.
 - b. Translators and/or other accommodations are provided, upon request, in order to fully support family participation.

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY**Accessibility**

Excel Academy 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, including by:

1. Translation is provided and translators will be available upon request.
2. Information is presented in a way that is understandable by parents.
3. Information is presented visually and verbally, as applicable.