



Esperanza Academy Charter School

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2021-2022

Our Philosophy

Esperanza Academy Charter School recognizes that consistent and recurring parental involvement increases the opportunity for student success. Parents are welcome at the school on a regular basis to visit classrooms, participate in group meetings/workshops and trainings, meet with their own child's teachers and administrators, chaperone activities and serve on committees. Parents who are interested in volunteering at school functions including chaperoning events and participating in our after school program will need to speak with a member of administration to obtain clearances prior to participation. These clearances are good for one year and need to be updated each year if one wishes to continue as a volunteer.

Policy Development and Review

The development and review of the school's Parent and Family Engagement Policy will take place each year during the last two weeks of August. All families will be notified in a mass mailing of the evening meeting scheduled to discuss, review and improve the policy and the jointly developed school-parent compact. Enactment of the policy will follow thereafter.

The annual meeting to inform parents of the school's participation in the Title 1 program and to explain the requirements of the program as well as the right to be involved serves as the kick off to our Back to School Night. The event will be held Tuesday, September 21 for the middle school; Wednesday, September 22 for the high school and Thursday, September 23 for the Elementary School from 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm. During this meeting, parents are provided with a copy of the Title 1 Schoolwide Program Plan. A guided review of the plan is presented and each parent receives a review card that asks for both positive and negative comments. The parents are asked to submit their recommendations directly to our office or by mail within a week from the date of the Back to School Night. These surveys help Esperanza Academy determine the barriers to parental participation that need to be addressed as well as measure the change in parent involvement from the preceding year. During the same month after the Back to School Night, a meeting is held to further review the plan and submitted recommendations in order to make any agreed upon alterations.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher conferences will take place in November 2021. The timing of the conferences are from 1:00pm to 8:00pm in order to accommodate our parents' various work schedules and encourage participation. Prior to the scheduled conference day, teachers communicate to our office staff the conferences that are crucial due to student performance, attendance etc. Our office staff calls this list of parents and sets up appointments during the designated time. Parents that are

not deemed crucial are also encouraged to call in and schedule an appointment for that day. We also accept walk-ins and will make arrangements for a family conference that is convenient to staff, parents and the student if parents are unable to participate on the designated day.

Parent Communication

Esperanza Academy provides parents with constant information regarding the curriculum, academic assessments, and expected proficiency levels of students, the State's academic content standards, student achievement standards, local assessment and how to monitor a child's progress as well as how to work with the teachers through the following means:

- Ability to access students' grades, assignments, discipline incidents, and attendance through our web based system PowerSchool.
- Quarterly mailings with progress reports and teacher correspondence
- Monthly newsletters
- Webpage information on upcoming events, resources and announcements and/or achievements
- Group and individual E-mails/post mailings
- Telephone Calls (SchoolMessenger)
- Meetings, presentations, workshops and twice yearly parent/teacher conferences.

Workshops and Presentations

To encourage parent involvement, we hold several workshops and meetings for parents during the school year. These workshops may be initiated based upon student need, school policies, or parental requests. They would include, but not be limited to: technology training workshops for parents to learn how to access PowerSchool; college access workshops for parents to gather skills and knowledge in college planning, the college process and financial aid presentations about our mission, philosophy, course credit structure and how our course majors work; meetings with parents whose child is struggling in order to monitor progress and plan interventions. We also have special program workshops for parents to help them pay for college.

In times of crisis we offer responsive services to answer community need including family services and referral. The Special Education Department invites parents to meetings to inform them of the services the community has to offer through the offices of social security, vocational rehabilitation, and mental retardation. They also bring presenters in to discuss education interventions parents can provide at home as well as mental health resources.