



PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY

Policy Involvement

In order to support the mission of Pride Academy Charter School and comply with NCLB guidelines for Title I funding, the Board, administration, and faculty of Pride Academy Charter School commit to:

1. Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating pupils are invited and encouraged to attend. The purpose of this meeting is to inform parents of our school's participation in NCLB funding, the requirements of this Policy, and the right of parents to be involved.
2. Offer a flexible number of meetings at various times, such as in the morning or evening, and if necessary, provide, with Title I funds, transportation, childcare, or home visits in order to facilitate parent involvement.
3. Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the design, review, and improvement of programs, including the design, review, and improvement of the school parental involvement policy and the joint development of the school-wide NCLB program plan.
4. Provide parents of participating pupils with the following:
 - timely information about programs required by NCLB, §11118;
 - a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet;
 - if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.
5. Submit any parent comments on the NCLB plan when the school makes the plan available to the Board of Education, if the school-wide program plan under §11114(b)(2) of NCLB is not satisfactory to the parents of participating pupils.

Shared Responsibilities For High Student Academic Achievement

Each school served by Title I funds shall jointly develop with parents of all pupils served with Title I funds, a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards.

The compact will:

1. Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the students served by Title I funds to meet the State's student academic achievement standards. The compact will also delineate the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, and homework completion; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time.
2. Address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum:
 - Parent-teacher conferences;
 - Regular bi-quarterly reports to parents on their children's progress;
 - Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities;
 - Consistent use of the Homework Agenda/Communication Folder for weekly updates on classroom assignments, progress, and classroom and school wide events.

Building Capacity For Involvement

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, Pride Academy Charter School:

1. Shall provide assistance to parents in understanding such topics as the State's academic content standards and student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of this Policy, and how to monitor progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.
2. Shall provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve achievement, such as literacy training and the use of technology.
3. Shall educate administrators, faculty, and 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 strong home-school partnerships.
4. Shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with programs like Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, the Parents as Teachers Program, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents to more fully participate in the education of their children.

5. Shall ensure 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.
6. May involve parents in the development of training for teachers, administrators, and other staff members to improve the effectiveness of such training.
7. May provide necessary literacy training from Title I funds if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training.
8. May pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and childcare costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
9. May train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.
10. May arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers and parents of participating children who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation.
11. May adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement.
12. May establish a school-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I programs.
13. May develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities.
14. May provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this Policy as parents may request.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parental involvement requirements of NCLB, §1118 and this Policy, the school, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, to include providing information and school reports required under NCLB, §1111 in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

The Principal of Pride Academy Charter School will submit this Policy to the New Jersey Department of Education for review to be sure the Policy meets the requirements of NCLB, §1118.