



Vaux Big Picture High School
Parent and Family Engagement Policy

School Year 2018-2019
Revision Date: 05/04/2018

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Vaux Big Picture High School** receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by section 1116(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

The **Vaux Big Picture High School** agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school, distribute it to the parents of participating children, and make the parent and family engagement policy available to the local community.
- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.
- Be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

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

- (A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- (C) Parents 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
- (D) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA

**DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT
REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY
COMPONENTS**

Section A: JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Vaux Big Picture High School will take the following actions to involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by parents, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

- **Parents, Staff and Students worked collaboratively to develop the parent and family engagement policy and school parent compact. A parent meeting was held on Saturday, May 5, 2018 to review draft copies of the policy and compact and solicit parent input into the development of these documents and the overall parent and family engagement program and activities at the school.**

Section B: ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Vaux Big Picture High School will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents' requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

- **At Back to School Night in September, the principal or his designee, will do a Title I presentation to parents outlining the requirements of Title I Part A, parent Rights to Know, state content standards and assessments and how to monitor their child's academic progress and work with educators as equal partners.**

Section C: COMMUNICATIONS

Vaux Big Picture High School will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children with (1) Timely information about the Title I programs, (2) Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, (3) transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement and may use Title I funds and (4) Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

- 1) **Vaux BPHS Advisors will conduct home visits each fall to engage with families, learn about students' strengths and needs, and collaboratively generate each student's**

Individual Learning Plan. Resiliency Specialists will also conduct home visits on an as-needed basis

- 2) Vaux BPHS will send a monthly parent newsletter in family friendly language and period supplemental videos and presentations to help families understand and access the unique components of our educational model.**
- 3) Vaux BPHS will continue to be committed to making our family meetings accessible to our community members including holding meetings in the evenings and on weekends to ensure they are accessible to all members.**
- 4) As needed, Vaux BPHS will continue to provide childcare to parents who wish to attend family meetings**
- 5) As needed, will make use of school district translation services to meet the needs of parents and families**

Section D: SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Vaux Big Picture High School will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children 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.

- Parents, Staff and Students worked collaboratively to develop the parent and family engagement policy and school parent compact. A parent meeting was held on Saturday, May 5, 2018 to review draft copies of the policy and compact and solicit parent input into the development of these documents and the overall parent and family engagement program and activities at the school.**

Section E: RESERVATION OF FUNDS

Vaux Big Picture High School will take the following actions to involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent by:

- At the annual Title I winter parent meeting, parents will have the opportunity to review the school plan for the coming school year and give input into identifying goals and spending priorities for the use of Title I funds, including the use of the 1% parent engagement set-aside.**
- Surveys will be given to parents in the fall to identify needed areas of parent support and possible use of parent Title I funds to support those areas, workshops, etc.**

Section F: COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Vaux Big Picture High School will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local 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 by:

- **Coordinated services with the following organizations:**
- **Philadelphia Housing Authority**
- **Temple University Nursing**
- **Community College of Philadelphia**
- **Fairmount Water Works**
- **Penn Praxis**
- **Outward Bound**
- **The YMCA**
- **Project SOLO**
- **We hold a spring community resource fair with over 20 service providers from the local community**

Section G: BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Vaux Big Picture High School will build the parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

1. Providing parents with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and
 2. Materials and training to help parents to work with their child to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement
 3. Providing assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 - a) The challenging State's academic standards
 - b) The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
 - c) The requirements of Title I, Part A
 - d) How to monitor their child's progress
 - e) How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child
- **During end of the semester exhibitions, parents are invited to see student learning projects and gain deeper understanding of the school instructional model and how to support student learning from home.**
 - **The school's Annual Title I meeting includes a presentation that addresses the five components listed above. This will occur during back to school night in September.**

Section H: BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Vaux Big Picture High School will provide training to educate 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 by:

- **Professional development will be held with staff during the month of August related to effective parent engagement, how to have useful conversations with parents as part of the August home visits, holding effective report card conferences and setting administrative expectations for the frequency and content of communication between school staff and families of students. This includes bi-weekly phone calls to parents.**
- **Ongoing professional development will be held weekly for two hours to extend staff learning throughout the school year including Response to Instruction and Intervention to provide interventions for individual students; ongoing practice in restorative justice; and effective family communications.**

Vaux Big Picture High School will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:

- **Vaux BPHS will distribute copies of The Big Picture, by Dennis Littky and will provide opportunities for a book study with parents on this book. This book lays out the foundational theory and particulars of the school model and will help parents to support student learning in the context of the Big Picture model.**
- **We will use the results of parent surveys to plan additional parent and family engagement activities and workshops.**

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY DISCRETIONARY COMPONENTS

- **Train parents to enhance the engagement of other parents through the School Advisory Council (SAC)**
- **To maximize parent and family engagement and participation in their child's education, arrange school meetings at a variety of times or conduct in-home conferences with teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children and parents who are unable to attend conferences at school. This includes August home visits that every advisor does with families of students in their advisory.**
- **Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parent and family engagement activities. This will be accomplished, in part, through our annual community resource fair in the spring.**



Principal Signature

5/4/18

Date