



Valdosta Early College Academy

Parent and Family Engagement Plan

School Year

2018-2019

September 19, 2018

School Information

Valdosta Early College Academy

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What is Title I?

Valdosta Early College Academy is identified as a Title I school as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA, 2015). Title I is designed to support State and local school reform efforts to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support parental involvement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with all parents a written parental involvement policy.

Description of School Parent and Family Engagement Plan

In conjunction with the goals of Valdosta City Schools, the parental involvement plan encompasses the beliefs, mission, and vision of Valdosta Early College Academy. Improving student performance is a community-wide effort which directly involves teachers, administrators, parents, families, and the community. We believe that parental involvement is a necessity as we strive to develop a total child. We are committed to involving parents in shared decision-making and encouraging parents to become active participants in their child's educational process. Valdosta Early College Academy focuses on effectively communicating instructional goals, creating an environment that is inviting for parents, and establishing the school as the ***center of the community***.

Valdosta Early College Academy defines the school's Parent and Family Engagement Plan as a comprehensive living document which centers on the following expectation: Valdosta Early College Academy will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents. According to the provisions of the Every Student Succeeds Act, "the Georgia Department of Education's Family-School Partnership Program ensures that Title I, Part A parent and family engagement regulations are met with meaningful and strategic actions to build parent and school staff capacity" (GaDoe, 2017). Furthermore, "schools and districts must ensure that strong strategies are in place to: 1) build capacity to engage parents/stakeholders in an effective partnership with the school; and 2) share and support high student academic achievement" (GaDoe, 2017).

Valdosta Early College Academy will work in concert with parents to jointly develop the school parental involvement plan. Valdosta Early College Academy will inform parents of the opportunity to participate in the planning, implementation, evaluation, and revision of: Parent Involvement Plans, School/Parent Compacts, and School Improvement Plans. Parents are encouraged to become a part of the VECA Parent Involvement Council which provides leadership and is involved in decision making for parent involvement activities and school improvement initiatives. Parents will be given the opportunity to view the parental involvement plan in the Parent Resource Center, VECA's Website, during any parent meetings including parent conferences. Valdosta Early College Academy will ensure the school parental involvement plan is distributed to and viewed by parents of participating children and the community through concerted efforts and communication.

School Goals

Valdosta Early College Academy will focus on the following academic goal to increase student achievement:

- School-wide Literacy initiative focusing on vocabulary, reading, writing, speaking, observing, and listening in all content areas

School-Parent Compacts

Valdosta Early College Academy is a student-centered learning community committed to providing engaging, rigorous academic coursework. The School-Parent Compact outlines the shared-responsibility of the school, parents, and students. The School-Parent Compact is developed jointly with parents, school staff, and students through a planned input meeting. As a result, the School-Parent Compact will be revised and updated annually based on the input and needs of each stakeholder represented.

Parent and Family Engagement and Activities

Valdosta Early College Academy recognizes the need to involve parents in shared decision-making and to establish procedures that inform parents about programs and activities related to their children's overall academic success. Therefore, Valdosta Early College Academy will establish and maintain timely, effective two-way communication with all stakeholders regarding the Title I program. Valdosta Early College Academy will send a written notice informing parents about the Title I program, the right and responsibility of parents to be involved and consulted concerning the planning, development, and operation of the program. The correspondence will invite parents to attend the annual meeting in order to discuss the nature of the Title I Program. The time and place of the meeting will be selected in a manner designed to encourage maximum attendance. Parents will be invited to participate through the following means: flyers, parent letters, phone texts, and parent newsletters. At the initial meeting of parents, school officials will explain the nature of the annual Title I Program.

Valdosta Early College Academy seeks to provide information and ideas to families about how to help students at home with homework, and other curriculum-related activities, decisions, and planning. Valdosta Early College Academy will build the capacity for strong parental involvement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement by providing the following activities and programs:

1. Classes and other training opportunities to acquire learning strategies to assist their children at home.
2. Parent Academy to provide parents with experience in collaborative, hands-on learning and technology.
3. Opportunities to be involved in decision making.
4. Parent workshops on standards-based instruction.
5. Professional development sessions for teachers and staff about techniques to engage parents in learning.
6. Professional learning activities for teachers and staff to enhance parent understanding and engagement in learning.
7. Parent education classes to improve language barriers.
8. Parent training classes.

Definition of Parental Involvement

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

- a. that parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;
- b. that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;
- c. that 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. the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118.

Support

Valdosta Early College Academy will provide assistance, if necessary, for parents to attend parent involvement activities in the following ways:

1. Offer child care with the help of local sororities within the community.
2. Utilize day care facilities willing to assist with child care services.

School Measures to Provide Required Assistance

Valdosta Early College Academy will build parents’ capacity for strong parental involvement through school-wide initiatives, communications, and resources.

School-wide Initiatives

Valdosta Early College Academy will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.

Literacy Initiative Parent Dates:

1. Parent Academy Literacy Strategies: Parents will learn how to assist their child at home with homework strategies and best practices
2. Parent Academy (6-7) Parents will learn how to implement literacy and technology standards with their child. Parents will learn how students learn in the classroom.
3. Financial Aid Meeting (11th/12th): Parents and students will learn how to complete the FASFA form. In addition, parents and students will learn about other financial aid information for college.
4. Parent Academy

Communications

The most important tool in any partnership is communication. It is the foundation of a solid partnership. When parents and educators communicate effectively, positive relationships develop, problems are more easily solved and the students make greater progress. Valdosta Early College Academy in collaboration with parents, will educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools.

Valdosta Early College Academy will ensure that 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.

Parent Involvement Standards

Parents, schools, families, and communities working together can create meaningful partnerships that ultimately lead to significant gains across the board in student achievement. The following Parent Involvement Standards will be implemented to create meaningful partnerships:

1. Communicating
2. Parenting
3. Student Learning
4. Volunteering
5. School Decision Making and Advocacy
6. Collaborating with the Community

Discretionary Components

Parents are natural advocates for their children and should be full partners with teachers and administrators in decisions affecting their children and families. They should also play an active role in decision-making. This partnership should be based on mutual trust, respect, and appreciation for cultural diversity and tolerance for different viewpoints. Our goal is to include parents in school decisions, developing parent leaders and representatives in the following ways:

1. Establish a Parent Involvement Advisory Team to involve parents in leadership and participation in decision making.
2. Involve parents in planning and evaluating Parent Involvement and School Improvement initiatives.
3. Provide parents with school performance data.
4. Inform parents how data is used to improve quality of education.

Discretionary Components

The parent volunteer is one of the most used methods to incorporate parent involvement into the school. Valdosta Early College Academy utilize parent volunteer as follows:

1. Identify parent skills and expertise.
2. Encourage parents to volunteer efforts.
3. Encourage parent support of service projects.
4. Create a school environment where parents are welcome and volunteer efforts are valued.

Parent Comments

We want to hear from you. If you have any suggestions or if there is any part of this plan that you feel is not satisfactory with the students' and the school goals' for academic achievement, please provide us with your comments in the space provided and leave this form in the front office:

Name: (optional) _____

Telephone Number: (optional) _____

