

Pataula Charter Academy

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2018–2019
Revised May 25, 2018
18637 Hartford Street
Edison, GA 39846
www.pataula.net

What is Family Engagement?

Family Engagement means the participation of parents and family members 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.
- (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 1116 of the ESSA.

About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Pataula Charter Academy (PCA) has developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe PCA's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals.

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and enjoy

school more. Title I, Part A provides for substantive family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children's education. Consistent with Section 1116, Pataula Charter Academy will work to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.

Jointly Developed

Pataula Charter Academy will take the following actions to involve parents, teachers, and other community stakeholders 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:

- All parents will be asked to complete an annual survey on parental involvement strategies the school has used that year.
- Parent surveys and input from the above mentioned meetings will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of parent and family engagement for that year and revise the school's Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) and Parent and Family Engagement Policy.
- The revised plan will be distributed in multiple languages as needed, so that parents may give feedback on the revised plan.
- Other meetings throughout the year for input on Title I programs and the Parental and Family Engagement Policy will be held, if requested by parents.

Each fall, Pataula Charter Academy will 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's Parent and Family Engagement Policy, the school's Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP), and the School-Parent Compact.

The district's Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be posted on the district website, distributed during the annual Title I school meetings early in the school year, and made available in the school's Parent Resource Center for parent review.

Strengthening Our School

PCA's Family Engagement Coordinator (FEC) will provide trainings for teachers and staff on effectively engaging parents throughout the school year. The topics for trainings may include effective communication, how to use volunteers, successful parent-teacher conference, having "courageous conversations" with parents.

The FEC created a Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) last school year. The Parent Advisory Committee met with the FEC and school administration throughout the year to give input into decision-making and learning about school goals and initiatives. This group of parents is tasked with sharing the information with other parents and getting input to share with the PAC team. PCA implemented this committee as another means of insuring more parent and community engagement and building parent capacity.

Reservation of Funds

Districts with Title I allotment of \$500,000 or more are required to reserve 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds for parental engagement. Pataula Charter Academy does not receive 500,000 in Title I funds, so is therefore exempt from the requirement of reserving funds.





Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents and family members are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to attend at least two meeting opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.

State of the District Meeting ~ September 2018

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from Pataula Charter Academy as well as review and provide input into the district's Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan for the 2019-20 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be emailed to all parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school website at www.pataula.net, social media, classroom newsletters, and school-wide Remind.

School Improvement Forums ~ April, 2019

During this month, PCA will host a forum for parents and family members to participate in roundtable discussions to review the schoolwide plan, the school's parent and family engagement policies as well as provide input on the family engagement programs. We will send invitations home, email and text parents notifying them about the date and time of the forum. Information regarding the School Improvement Forum will also be made available on the school websites.

Parent input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual parent survey. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement processes at PCA.

Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit www.pataula.net to review the meeting documents and minutes and leave your input.



Scan the code with your smartphone or tablet to access family engagement information from the ACSD website.

Building Capacity

Pataula Charter Academy will build the school and parents' capacity for strong family engagement, in order to insure effective involvement of parents and family members and to support a partnership among the Title I schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement.

Of Parents -Pataula Charter Academy will build the parents' capacity for strong parental involvement 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:

- 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 proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
- Offer resources and training to help parents to work with their child to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement
- Providing assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 - The State's academic content standards.
 - The State's student academic achievement standards.
 - The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments.
 - The requirements of Title I, Part A.
 - How to monitor their child's progress.
 - How to work with educators.

Some examples of parent workshops that may be offered are:

- Strategies to increase literacy/writing skills
- Strategies to increase math skills
- Strategies to increase study skills
- Training on understanding standards-based assessing and reporting

Pataula Charter Academy established a schoolwide Parent Advisory Committee comprised of parent representatives to provide advice on all matters related to family engagement in Title I, Part A programs. Community leaders and business partners will be invited to serve on this council.

Pataula Charter Academy will coordinate and integrate the school's family engagement programs with the local preschool program by inviting faculty and staff from this program to attend planning meetings focused on family engagement activities. In the spring, the elementary school will host Kindergarten Ready days so parents may tour the school and receive information to help prepare them and their children for kindergarten.

Of School Staff -

Pataula Charter Academy will provide training to educate the teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff in how to reach out to, communicate, 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 the school.

Trainings may come in the form of:

- Guidelines for parent communication and engagement in handbooks
 - Tip sheets or articles for effective parent communication and engagement
 - Professional Development given on-site by administrators or other school staff
 - Professional Development off-site (for individual teachers)
 - Online courses or modules focusing on Professionalism and Communication in the TKES platform
- Pataula Charter Academy will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:
- Offering opportunities for leadership in the school through serving on the Governing Board, PTO Board, Booster Club Board, or Parent Advisory Committee.
 - Offering opportunities for parents to assist in the education of students through serving as "experts", job shadowing, "field work" at his/her place of business, etc.
 - Offer opportunities for parents to attend performances and celebrations; such as monthly Community Circles, family picnics, Veteran's Day Programs, Gallery Night, etc.
 - Offer opportunities for parents to volunteer for the school; such as being a guest reader, chaperoning field work trips, assisting with big hands-on projects, etc.

Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, Pataula Charter Academy will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey.

Pataula Charter Academy will use the findings from survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement policies.

Beginning in March, PCA will send home a survey and email a link to the survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the school website for parents to complete.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district will work to ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children including providing information and school reports in a language parents can understand.

Mark Your Calendars

For Parents

Annual Parent Survey
March, 2019

School Improvement Forums
April 2019

State of the District
September, 2018

For Schools

Parent Engagement Training
September 2018

Principal and FEC Meetings
First Wednesday of every
month

Adoption

This districtwide parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs.

This policy was adopted by Pataula Charter Academy on May 25, 2018 and will be in effect for the 2018-2019 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before November 1, 2018.

