

THE ACADEMIES CHARTER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

The Academies Charter Management Organization (“TACMO” or the “Charter School”) has developed a written Parent and Family Engagement Policy (“Policy”) with input from Title I parents and families. TACMO has distributed the Policy to parents of Title I students by posting on our website. This Policy describes the means for carrying out the following Title I parent and family engagement requirements.

Charter School Expectations and Objectives

In establishing the Charter School’s expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement, TACMO has established the following practices:

1. TACMO involves parents and family members in the joint development of the Charter School’s Parent and Family Engagement Plan.
 - Monthly parent forums to provide opportunities for family input
 - Annual organizational climate survey
2. TACMO provides the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity within the Charter School in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education.
 - Parent workshops are held at school sites addressing a variety of topics
3. TACMO coordinates and integrates parent and family engagement strategies to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant federal, state, and local laws and programs.
 - For any school site that has 30 or more English Language Learners, the school will establish an English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC) to discuss how the school is meeting the academic needs of this subgroup.
 - Monthly parent forums and email are used to communicate updated federal, state, and local laws
4. TACMO conducts, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Policy in improving the academic quality at the Charter School.
 - The policy is reviewed annually to determine if any updates are needed.

5. TACMO conducts, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of barriers to greater participation by parents/families (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background).
 - All families including economically disadvantaged are given the opportunity to complete the Free and Reduced meal lunch application to ensure students participation in the organization's meal program
 - Parent workshops at the school site are developed to target parents of English Language Learners and economically disadvantaged students
6. TACMO conducts, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with Charter School personnel and teachers.
 - Annual organizational climate survey
7. TACMO conducts, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of strategies to support successful Charter School and family interactions.
 - Annual organizational climate survey
8. TACMO uses the findings of the annual evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental and family engagement, and to revise, if necessary, the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.
 - Annual organizational climate survey
9. TACMO involves parents in the activities of the Charter School to adequately represent the needs of the population.
 - Monthly parent forums to provide opportunities for family input
 - Annual organizational climate survey

Involvement of Parents in the Title I Program

To involve parents in the Title I program at TACMO, the following practices have been established:

1. TACMO convenes an annual meeting to inform parents of Title I students about Title I requirements and about the right of parents to be involved in the Title I program.
 - Annual meeting for parents that have students in Title 1 programs including literacy and math interventions
2. TACMO offers a flexible number of meetings for Title I parents, such as meetings in the morning or evening.

- Monthly parent forums are held both in the evening and morning to encourage participation
3. TACMO involves parents of Title I students in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the Charter School's Title I programs and the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.
 - Communication about annual Title I meeting and monthly parent forums is done through mobile app and email at least one week in advance of the meeting.
 4. TACMO provides parents of Title I students with timely information about Title I programs.
 - Family handbook to inform parents about Title I programs including and not limited to literacy and math intervention
 5. TACMO provides parents of Title I students with a description and explanation of the curriculum used at the Charter School, the assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
 - Parents are notified that multiple curricular resources are used to provide both core academic instruction and intervention programs. NWEA MAP is the charter school's local assessment for all Title I students.
 6. If requested by parents of Title I students, TACMO provides opportunities for regular meetings that allow the parents to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children.
 - Monthly parent forums are held on varying days and times to provide consistent meeting and also encourage participation from parents of Title

The Policy must be updated periodically to meet changing needs of parents and the Charter School. If TACMO has a process in place for involving parents in planning and designing the Charter School's programs, the school may use that process if it includes adequate representation of parents of Title I children.

School-Parent Compact

TACMO distributes to parents of Title I students a School-Parent Compact (the "Compact"). The Compact, which has been jointly developed with parents, outlines how parents, the entire Charter School staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. It describes specific ways the Charter School and families will partner to help children achieve the State's high academic standards. It addresses the following legally required items, as well as other items suggested by parents of Title I students:

1. TACMO's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction to meet the challenging State academic standards.

2. The ways parents will be responsible for supporting their children’s learning, volunteering in the classroom, and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time.
3. The importance of ongoing communication between parents and teachers through, at a minimum, annual parent-teacher conferences; frequent reports on student progress; access to staff; opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate in their child’s class; and opportunities to observe classroom activities and ensuring regular communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand.

TACMO developed the Social Contract, a school-parent compact in collaboration with staff and parents which is included in our Family Handbook and attached to this policy.

Building Capacity for Involvement

TACMO engages Title I parents in meaningful interactions with the Charter School. The Charter School supports a partnership among staff, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. To help reach these goals, TACMO has established the following practices.

1. TACMO provides Title I parents with assistance in understanding challenging state academic standards, state and local assessments, and how to monitor and improve the achievement of their children.
 - Parent workshops to provide academic assistance at home
2. TACMO provides Title I parents with materials and training, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, to help them work with their children to improve their children's achievement.
 - Parent workshops/family tutoring events
3. With the assistance of Title I parents, TACMO educates staff members about the value of parent contributions, and in how to reach out, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and the Charter School.
 - Early release Wednesday and Professional Development day(s) at the school site
4. TACMO coordinates and integrates the Title I parental involvement program with other programs, and conducts other activities, such as parent resource centers, to encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.
 - The Title I program is discussed during the ELAC committee as appropriate.

5. TACMO distributes information related to Charter School and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to Title I parents in a format and language that the parents understand.
 - Family handbook
6. TACMO provides support for parental involvement activities requested by Title I parents.
 - Title I parents are given opportunity to request specific parental involvement activities in the annual organization climate survey

Accessibility

TACMO provides opportunities for the participation of all Title I parents and family members, including parents/family with limited English proficiency, parents/family with disabilities, and parents/family of migratory students. Information and school reports are provided in a format and language that parents/family understand, including by:

- Assessment reports for each school are presented at LCAP and/or monthly parent forum presentations

This policy was formally adopted at a meeting of The Academies Charter Management Organization Board of Directors on March 18, 2021.

Alex Tietjen, Board Secretary