

The Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School (FACTS) is a Local Education Agency (LEA) that receives Title I funds and has chosen to implement a school-wide program using these funds that is designed to meet the educational needs of all students in the school.

What are Title I funds? Title I funds are federal government grant funds that provide financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools to improve the academic achievement of disadvantaged students. The Title I grant is made available to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments.

FACTS believes that the improved academic achievement of each student is a responsibility shared by the entire school community, including the Board of Trustees, school administration, staff, community members, students, and parents (defined for the purposes of this policy to include guardians and all members of a student's family involved in the student's education).

This **Parent and Family Engagement Policy** is being adopted in order to:

1. Support and secure strong effective partnerships among parents, the school and the community to improve academic quality and student performance.
2. Provide coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist in planning and implementing effective family engagement activities to improve academic achievement and school performance.
3. Comply with Title I, Part A requirements to have a written Parent and Family Engagement Policy for the LEA as required under Section 1116 of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

This policy shall serve as written documentation of FACTS commitment to ensure parents are welcomed, engaged, and valued stakeholders in the education of their children.

FACTS LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy:

- FACTS will involve parents in the joint development of the Title I Plan (Title I Application) (ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(A)), by:
 - Conducting an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy, activities and programs.
 - Inviting parents and community stakeholders to participate in meetings and provide feedback regarding the policy. Parents will be notified of these meetings in a variety of ways including notices sent home in the weekly "Take Home Tuesday" communication

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Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Complete Revision Partial Revision New

January 2020

Last Reviewed by Board of Trustees and Stakeholders 4/19/2023

- folder, E-mail, social media, school website posting, and parent portal announcements. Families and community stakeholders unable to attend the meetings will have the opportunity to submit feedback via paper or electronic survey.
- o Considering the use of all feedback and input received when updating the policy.
 - o Placing the finalized policy on the school's website (www.factschool.org) and the Parent Portal (www.plusportals.com/factschool). Hard copies will be available at the annual Title I meeting, Back to School Night and by request from the office throughout the year.
- FACTS will involve parents in the process of school review and improvement (*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(A)*), by:
 - o Providing parents with limited English proficiency access to fully translated documents.
 - o Utilizing bi-lingual staff, contracted interpreters, or telephone interpretation service for parents with limited English proficiency so they may fully participate in meetings
 - o Providing adequate advance notice to parents of meetings through notices sent home, robo calls, email, and electronic parent portals.
 - FACTS will provide technical assistance and support in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance (*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(B)*), by:
 - o Scheduling multiple family curriculum learning opportunities each year for parents. These include, but are not limited to the literacy, math, Folk Arts, and English Language Development family nights.
 - o Providing workshops to parents on school safety, social media, and other topics as requested.
 - o Providing annual professional development to staff facilitated by parents and/or SPAC on how to involve and engage caregivers effectively.
 - o Training new and existing staff on how to implement family engagement best practices.
 - FACTS will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with other federal, state, and local laws and programs (*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(C)*), by:
 - o Participating in on-going communication with neighborhood daycare and preschool providers.
 - o Inviting parents of Pre-K students to participate in open-house tours.
 - o Continuing to invite community partners including but not limited to members of our Board of Trustees, Asian Americans United , Philadelphia Folklore Project, HIAS Pennsylvania, Children's Village Childcare, etc. to attend and present at parent meetings
 - FACTS will conduct an annual survey to collect data and feedback on the content and effectiveness of the school level and LEA level parent and family engagement policies. Survey results will be used to:
 - o Identify barriers to greater participation by parents and family members, 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.

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- o Identify the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. (*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(D)(i-iii)*).
 - o Use the findings of the annual evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family involvement, and revise, if necessary, the Parent and Family Engagement Policy (*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(E)*).
- FACTS will involve parents and family members in the activities of the school (*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(F)*), by:
 - o Inviting parents to attend meetings including but not limited to report card conferences, Back to School Night, State of the School, and family curriculum nights and join policy review committees through a variety of communication strategies including flyers, e-mail, social media, and parent portals
 - o Including parents as members on the Board of Trustees
 - o Encouraging parents to attend conferences and workshops such as the annual State Parent Advisory Council conference.
 - o Providing information clearly and concisely to parents, in whenever possible, parents preferred language

FACTS LEA level Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with and agreed on with parents of children participating in the school-wide Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by agendas, sign-in sheets from meetings as well as survey results.

The policy was adopted by The Board of Trustees on _____ and will be in effect until further revision.