

2.016 Parent and Family Engagement Policy (Title I)

In support of boosting student academic achievement, Ascend Leadership Academy receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must cooperatively develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parent and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that encompasses information required by section 1116(b) and (c) of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the school's expectations for engagement and involvement by parents and families. Further, it describes how the school will execute a number of specific activities intended to engage parents in the education process.

The faculty, staff and administration at Ascend Leadership Academy is dedicated to educating the whole child. Each of our educational staff members commits to reaching out to parents with the belief that they are just one piece of educating a student. This is a shared responsibility between home and school. At Ascend Leadership Academy we commit to building strong and positive relationships with the families of our students to increase academic achievement of all students. The purpose of this parent and family engagement policy is to support in a more consistent and effective manner the building of relationships to support every child.

At Ascend Leadership Academy, we offer opportunities that will improve the quality of life for our students, their families, and the community of stakeholders. We aim to lay a solid foundation and build an environment of academic productivity through meaningful and honest communication, strong and consistently high academic expectations and delivery of learning activities that support the excitement for learning, respect for all people, and infuse student pride in, and ownership of a positive learning community.

At Ascend Leadership Academy, the partnership between school and home will be supported and enhanced by:

- Involving parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner, 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 plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA.
- Convening an annual meeting in the school to provide information to parents, family members, and community members about the school and available programs. For this meeting we will maintain, on file at the school the following:
 - a copy of the agenda from the meeting highlighting the events of the evening to show that Title I programming was discussed;
 - documentation of parent feedback and/or evaluation in the form of sign-in sheets and minutes from the presentation/meetings;
 - if relevant, a copy of any presentation; and flyers, website announcements, message recordings and/or other advertisement for the meeting;
- Notifying parents of and clearly posting on the school's website the NC School Report Card Data, as well as providing a hard copy of the report to parents in a format that is accessible to each family;
- Offering public engagement, awareness, and encouragement through parent meetings, written communications, and newsletters along with website postings that will set the stage for parents and the community to have opportunities to help Ascend Leadership Academy make decisions about school wide operations;

- Conducting its annual Title I Parent Meeting/Open House in September to discuss school programs, academic requirements and parent involvement activities with parents and families as well as interested community members;
- Scheduling parent engagement meetings periodically during the school year to communicate with parents, obtain parent feedback through surveys and/or evaluations, update the school parent and family engagement policy to meet the changing needs of parents and the school. During those meetings, teachers and administrators will distribute information regarding instructional and schoolwide programming;
- Providing learning and enrichment activities that will help parents acquire knowledge of the NC School Report Card Data; offering a flexible number of meetings, workshops and parent conferences that assist parents, family members, and community members in improving the achievement of all children;
- Involving parents, family members, and community members to participate in an organized, ongoing, and timely way in consultation for the improvement of the Academy and its' programs, Revised July 2018 specifically including these critical stakeholders in the planning, review, and evaluation of programs and improve programs based on the results;
- Communicating clearly and frequently with parents, family members and community members about school policies, programs and their own children in a language they can understand;
- Assisting parents, family members and community members in understanding state academic content, the North Carolina Accountability Program, state and local assessments, and student performance standards;
- Providing parents with the opportunities to help the school make decisions about the education and professional development for teachers and staff directed at increasing student achievement.
- Informing the Academy's Board of Directors of events and activities planned to increase parent and family engagement. The board will invite a parent to participate as a member of the Board of Directors;
- Partnering with the Department of Social Services, Department of Health and Human Resources, counseling services, and other agencies to support our students as they progress through school in order to meet needs that inhibit learning;
- Having all parties involved sign a Principal/Teacher/Parent/Student Compact stating how each will contribute to ensuring the student's achievement.
- 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

By increasing the engagement of our parents and families, as well as community entities, the students at Ascend Leadership Academy will grow to be productive, responsible citizens in our community and be prepared to attend college-prep public and private high schools.

This Ascend Leadership Academy Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children in our building. Ascend Leadership Academy will distribute this policy to all parents and provide a copy on the school website for public viewing.