

Desert Heights Charter School Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Each school in its District-wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy must establish the school and district's expectations for parental involvement. *[Section 1118(a)(2), ESEA.]*

Desert Heights Charter School agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1118, the school will work ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- The school will incorporate the district wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy into its school plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the school plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school will submit any parent comments with the plan to the district when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.

- The school and district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions if applicable, based on current allocation, about how the one percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school and district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

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 of the ESEA.

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENT AND FAMILY ENAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

The District-wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy must include a description of how the district and school will implement or accomplish each of the following components. *[Section 1118(a)(2), ESEA.]*

1. Desert Heights Charter School will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its school and district wide parental involvement plans under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - Provide information to parents during scheduled school events regarding Title I services, and the opportunities open for participation in the development of the program. This information will be presented in the form of handouts with

“Promoting Academic Excellence, Integrity of Character, and Social Awareness in each individual student”

information describing the Title I programs and services available. Additionally, handouts will be provided with the names and contact numbers of Title I staff.

- Provide parents with opportunities to attend and participate in Title I parent meetings held yearly. The posted agenda will define the topics to be discussed at the meeting. Information regarding Title I Parent and Family Engagement policies will be presented to parents in a power point. The presentation and meeting minutes can then be sent to Title I parents who were not able to attend the meeting.
2. Desert Heights Charter School will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
- Provide parents with opportunities to attend and participate in Title I parent meetings held no less than once per year. The posted agenda will define the topics to be discussed at the meeting. Information regarding current school achievement data and policies will be presented to parents in a power point. The presentation and meeting minutes can then be sent to Title I parents who were not able to attend the meeting.
 - Parent Surveys will be completed annually.
 - The Title I staff will offer additional meetings, if requested, and provide flexible meeting times.
3. Desert Heights Charter Schools will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
- Coordination and implementation of the described Parent and Family Engagement Policy with principals and staff at Desert Heights Charter School.
4. Desert Heights Charter School will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies established within Title III language instruction programs through:
- Meetings two times per year between the EL Coordinator and Director of Federal Programs to review and coordinate parent involvement plans and strategies.
 - Quarterly meetings between the EL Coordinator and Director of Federal Programs to review student progress, communication of progress with parents, and potential modifications to the parent communication plan.

5. Desert Heights Charter School will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Parent and Family Engagement Policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A school. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (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). The school will use the findings of the evaluation about its Parent and Family Engagement Policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

- Yearly surveys will be completed with a focus on identifying barriers to participation.
- The results of the completed surveys will be shared during scheduled Title I meetings.

1. Desert Heights Charter School will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

A. The Title I, Part A school will provide assistance to parents of children served by the school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --

- 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 Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators:

These topics will be reviewed during Title I meetings, in the school-wide newsletters, during parent curriculum nights, and reviewed during parent/teacher conferences.

B. The school will, with the assistance of its district, 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, by:

- Parents are provided with educational resources, at school events and prior to breaks from school, outlining research-based strategies for supporting reading and math acquisition.

- Parents are provided with student activities, prior to breaks from school, to practice research-based reading and math strategies, based on individual student goals.
- Parents are provided with access to online reading and math programs, which provide their child with opportunities for independent practice at home.
- Parents are provided with a letter describing opportunities and resources to keep students reading during the summer. It outlines community resources and suggestions for activities that support reading.
- A parent educational program focusing on activities that will facilitate learning throughout the summer. Information will be presented to parents through power point presentations and handouts.

C. Desert Heights Charter School will, with the assistance of the district and its stakeholders, 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 the school, by:

- Regular meetings between administration and Title I staff.
- Data meetings with administration, teachers, and Title I staff, in which Title I staff will provide consult regarding potential parent involvement needs to facilitate student growth.

D. The school and district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

- Providing information to parents at Parent Information Nights. Information regarding these programs will be integrated into the agenda for these meetings. Power point presentations will be completed, and handouts will be provided to parents providing information regarding literacy and math instruction.

E. The school will take the following actions to 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:

- Parents are notified of the Title I meetings that occur no less than yearly. Notification of meeting dates and agendas are posted in the front offices of Desert Heights Charter School in the display/notification cases outside the school, in the weekly newsletter, and on the website.
- Parents will be provided with information regarding school performance and student achievement, Title I programs and policies, current staff and any proposed changes for the year. Parent input will be solicited during these meetings and integrated into the decision-making process of the administrative team. The power point and meeting notes will be available to parents following the meeting for those who are not able to attend. The parents who are not able to attend these meeting will be provided with contact names and phone numbers or e-mail addresses of Title I staff to allow them to provide input.
- A Spanish translator is available for these meetings.

* * * * *

PART IV. ADOPTION

This district and school Parent and Family Engagement Policies have been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by minutes of the Title I Parent Meeting.

This policy was adopted by the Desert Heights Charter Schools on 04/16/2109 and will be reviewed annually. If substantial changes are made, it will be resubmitted for approval by the Governing Board of Desert Heights Charter Schools. The school and district will make this policy available to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on the district and school website and accessible in a uniform format and a language that parents can understand.