



Office of Federal Programs
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Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2022-2023 School Year

Virtus Academy of South Carolina receives Title I, Part A funds, and therefore must develop jointly with the parents of children participating in Title I services, a written parent and family engagement policy that describes how the school will carry out the parent and family engagement requirements outlined in The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), section 1116(a)(2). This policy establishes Virtus Academy of South Carolina's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement parent and family engagement activities.

Virtus Academy of South Carolina will do the following:

1. Involve parents and family members in the school's Title I program:
 - a. Hold an annual meeting to assist parents in understanding that their school receives Title I funds, that these funds come with requirements, and that parents and/or guardians have the right to be involved. VASC will provide this information through Parent Square notifications, posts on the school website, and/or email notifications.
 - b. Provide parents timely information about the Title I program by making posts on Parent Square, posting on the school website, and/or sending out notifications via email.
 - c. Involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's Title I program by holding a Title I planning meeting that will include parents and their feedback.
 - d. Involve parents in the joint development of the school-wide program plan by collaboratively developing the program during the Title I planning meeting which will include parents.
2. Implement the following actions to engage parents/families in the Parent and Family Engagement Policy by:
 - a. Develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents and family members of a written parent and family engagement policy. The written parent and family engagement policy shall meet these requirements: Written in an understandable format, provided in a language parents can understand, distributed to all parents, and made available to the local community.
 - b. Collect feedback annually to improve the policy's effectiveness in meeting the Title I program's students' needs and requirements.
 - c. Provide parents/families access to this Parent and Family Engagement policy

through open communication about the policy during parent meetings, such as annual Title I Public Meetings, open houses, school improvement meetings, the school website, and notifications on Parent Square.

- d. Involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy by including parents in the Title 1 meeting and receiving feedback from parent surveys.
3. Develop jointly with parents and families a School-Parent Compact which describes the following:
 - a. Outline how the parents, school staff, and students will share responsibility for improved student achievement.
 - b. The school's responsibility is to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served to meet the challenging State academic standards.
 - c. How parents and family members will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to their children's education, volunteering in their child's school, and positive use of extracurricular time.
 - d. Address the importance of on-going communication between teachers and parents, and family members through; parent-teacher conferences, frequent reports to parents on their child's progress, the provision of reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate/observe in their child's class, and ensure communication is regular, two-way, and meaningful and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand.
 4. Build the school and parent capacity for strong parent and family involvement through the following:
 - a. Implement effective family engagement activities and involve families in school activities by sponsoring Stem, Holidays Around the World, Math, and Technology Nights as well as a Project-Based Showcase Night.
 - b. Conduct an annual evaluation of the policy's effectiveness in improving the school's academic quality, including identifying barriers to greater participation by families and utilizing the findings to design strategies to support successful family interactions and revise engagement policies.
 - c. Assist parents in understanding topics such as the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, how to monitor their child's progress, and how to work with the school and teachers to improve the achievement of their children by providing grade-level specific details during our Stem, Math, and Technology Nights.
 - d. Provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement by providing grade-level specific details during our Stem, Math, and Technology Nights.
 - e. Educate teachers, personnel, and school leaders on the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to communicate and work with parents as equal partners and build ties between parents and the school by providing professional development which will focus on the importance of parent contributions, and the value of developing a partnership to include communicating and working with parents.
 - f. Coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs by integrating our Title I and Title II programs to work in conjunction with each other.

