

## **Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

2023-2024 School Year

Virtus Academy of South Carolina, VASC, 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 VASC's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement parent and family engagement activities.

VASC 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 needs of the students and requirements of the Title I program.
  - c. Provide parents/families access to the information in this Parent and Family

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

- d. Involve parents in an ongoing and timely way 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. The ways in which parents and family members will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and 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 parent engagement nights as well as a Project-Based Showcase Nights.
    - b. Conduct an annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the policy in improving the academic quality of the school, including identifying barriers to greater participation by families and utilize the findings to design strategies to support successful family interactions and revise engagement policies.
    - c. Provide assistance to 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 parent engagement activities.
    - 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 parent engagement activities.
    - e. Educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out, to communicate, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, 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 that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by integrating our Title I and Title II programs to work in conjunction with each other.

- g. Provide parents with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards by including informational break-out sessions during the parent engagement activities.
5. The school will make accommodations to support parent engagement through the following:
- a. Ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to parents in a format and language the parents can understand by providing communication in the parent's native language, either written or by way of an interpreter.
  - b. Encourage parent engagement by paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent involvement activities, including transportation, childcare, or home visit expenses, to enable participation in school-related meetings and training sessions.
  - c. Provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children by providing communication in the parent's native language, either written or by way of an interpreter including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand..
  - d. Arrange parent meetings, including parent conferences, at various times and days to maximize parental engagement and program.
  - e. Provide other reasonable support for parent involvement activities parents may request and provide, if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and will respond to any such suggestions within ten business days.
  - f. Provide reasonable support for parent involvement activities parents may request by adding suggestions to plans, if possible.