



The Laboratory Charter School

of Communication and Languages

Title I LEA and School Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2021-2022

The Laboratory Charter School is dedicated to the philosophy that parent involvement is integral to the success of each student, and that forging a strong partnership between school and the home is essential in order to provide a quality education to all students.

Therefore, Lab will implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in accordance with Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). This federal statute defines "parent and family engagement" as the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- 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; and
- The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA.

Laboratory Charter School has developed this Title I School Parent and Family Engagement Policy in conjunction with our Parent Involvement Committee on February 15, 2017 to inform our school community. This policy will be posted on Lab's website for accessibility to parents and members of the community, will be distributed at the annual Title I meeting and will be in the Student-Parent Handbook.

School Responsibilities

In order to involve parents in the Title I Program, The Laboratory Charter School will:

- Convene an annual Title I meeting to inform parents of The Laboratory Charter School's participation in the Title I Program, the Program's requirements and parents' involvement and rights.
- Hold parent meetings at various times throughout the school year in order to familiarize parents with The Laboratory Charter School's Title I Program. In

addition, conferences with the Principal and teachers may be scheduled as needed in order to facilitate open communication.

- Involve parents in an organized, ongoing and timely way, in the planning, review and improvement of the Title I Program, Parent Compact, and Parent Involvement Policy.
- Provide parents with a description and explanation of The Laboratory Charter School's curriculum, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels that students are expected to meet.
- Communicate with parents through fliers, calendars, student folders, website postings, letters/notices, and electronic means.
- Provide parents with timely information about the Title I Program.
- Provide assistance to parents in understanding the State's academic content standards and student achievement standards, academic assessments, and how to monitor a child's progress, with encouragement to work with teachers to improve the achievement of their children
- Provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their academic achievement and, as appropriate, to foster parent involvement.
- Disseminate to parents data regarding their child's achievement, progress reports, and classroom and standardized assessment results, to enable parents to know of, and to remain actively engaged in, their child's educational progress.
- Provide, if requested by parents, opportunities for additional meetings for solicitation of suggestions from parents and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child. The Laboratory Charter School will respond to any such suggestions as soon as practically possible.
- Provide a written agreement (School-Parent Compact) explaining the roles of parent, student and staff to be signed by all parties responsible for academic achievement in an effort to improve his/her skill levels as a student enters the Title I Pull-out Program.
- Provide a high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables students to meet State academic standards
- Inform parents that their children will be taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified, should the need arise

- Employ teachers who meet Pennsylvania’s statutory and regulatory requirements, will be provided with professional development, and will continually update resources and maintain an environment that facilitates learning
- With regard to professional development, provide training to school staff to strengthen parental involvement efforts relating to:
 - The value and utility of contributions of parents
 - How to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners
 - Implementing and coordinating parent programs
 - Building ties between parents and The Laboratory Charter School

Parent Involvement

- Parents will be involved in the planning, review and improvement of The Laboratory Charter School’s Title I Program and the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, through feedback, suggestions, the Annual Title I Parent Meeting, additional parent meetings and parent-teacher conferences.
- Parent representatives will serve on a committee to review, develop, and update the Title I policies, School-wide Improvement Plan, forms, and the Title I Program.
- A Title I Parent Survey will be conducted annually to evaluate the effectiveness of the Title I Program, and to assess levels of parent involvement and barriers. The evaluation findings will serve as the basis for planning and the improvement of the Program.
- Report cards distributed six times annually and trimester Title I progress reports will allow parents to monitor their child’s progress and take steps to improve individual academic achievement level as needed.
- Periodic Parent Partnership meetings will provide recommendations, materials, and training to help parents work with their child to improve academic achievement and to help parents better understand the State’s academic standards and results of local assessments.
- The Laboratory Charter School will provide programs or activities throughout the year encourage parents to become active participants in increasing student achievement and learning such as Back to School Night, Parent Partnership

Meetings, Kindergarten Readiness Workshops, High School Readiness Meeting, and Parent-Teacher Conferences.

School-Parent Compact

Incorporated as a component of the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy, The Laboratory Charter School distributes to parents of participating children the attached School-Parent Compact. The Compact outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. It describes specific ways that The Laboratory Charter School and families will partner to help children achieve the State's high academic standards. It addresses not only items suggested by parents of Title I students, but also the following legally required items:

- The ways parents will be responsible for supporting their child's learning
- The importance of ongoing communication between parents and teachers through, at a minimum, annual parent-teacher conferences; frequent reports on student progress; access to staff; opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate in their children's class; and opportunities to observe classroom activities.

This policy was adopted by The Laboratory Charter School for the 2021-2022 school year, and will be in effect for the period of one year. This policy will be placed on the school website so that all parents of participating Title I, Part A children have access to it. Please direct any questions to the building principals at each site.

Parents can always contact our Parent Coordinator at parents@labcharter.com, or at 267-817-4720 with any feedback, comments, questions, or concerns as well as to volunteer, join the parent group, (Parents As Partners In Education), or simply ask questions about the school curriculum and operations.