

**DISTRICT**

**PARENT AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

All Local Education Agencies (LEA) receiving Title I funds are required under Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to develop a written Parent and Family Engagement Policy for the LEA. The ESSA states that the LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy must be jointly developed with parents and family members, incorporated into the LEA plan (Consolidated Application), and distributed to parents of participating children in a format and language that parents can understand. Such programs, activities, and procedures shall be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.

**PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

Each school in its School-wide Parental Involvement Policy must establish the school’s expectations for parental involvement. *[Section 1116, ESSA.]*

The Lehigh Valley Dual Language Charter School agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

* The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
* Consistent with section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1116 of the ESSA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1116 of the ESSA.
* Lehigh Valley Dual Language Charter School will incorporate this district wide parent and engagement policy into its Schoolwide Plan developed under section 1116 of the ESSA.
* In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools 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 1116 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
* If the Schoolwide Plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1116 of the ESSA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
* The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 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 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****.***

* The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in the State.

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

[NOTE: The School- wide Parent and Engagement Policy must include a description of how the school will implement or accomplish each of the following components. *[Section 1116, ESSA.]* Regardless of the format the school chooses to use, a description of each of the following components below must be included in order to satisfy statutory requirements.]

1. The Lehigh Valley Dual Language Charter School will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its school-wide parent and engagement plan under section 1116 of the ESSA:

*Parent Academy*

*Parent Education Sessions*

*Adult Literacy Classes*

*Family Activities*

*Parent Conferences*

*Home Visits*

2. The Lehigh Valley Dual Language Charter School will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESSA:

*Parents on the School Board*

*Parents on the Schoolwide Action Team (SWAT)*

3. The Lehigh Valley Dual Language Charter School 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:

*Parent Academy*

*Parent Education Sessions*

*Adult Literacy Classes*

*Family Activities*

*Parent Conferences*

*Home Visits*

4. The Lehigh Valley Dual Language Charter School will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs by:

*Parent Academy*

*Parent Education Sessions*

*Adult Literacy Classes*

*Family Activities*

*Parent Conferences*

*Home Visits*

5. The Lehigh Valley Dual Language Charter School will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A programs. 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 parental involvement 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.

*Evaluations will be conducted through Parent Surveys, Focus Groups, and informal discussions informal discussions with parents and parent participation in parent activities.*

6. The Lehigh Valley Dual Language Charter School will build the school’s and parents' 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:

*Parent Academy*

*Parent Education Sessions*

*Adult Literacy Classes*

*Family Activities*

*Parent Conferences*

*Home Visits*

A. The Lehigh Valley Dual Language Charter School will provide assistance to parents, 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 Title I-Part A,
* how to monitor their child’s progress, and
* how to work with educators.

*Parent Academy*

*Parent Education Sessions*

*Adult Literacy Classes*

*Family Activities*

*Parent Conferences*

*Home Visits*

*Technology Training*

B. The Lehigh Valley Dual Language Charter School will 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:

*Parent Academy*

*Parent Education Sessions*

*Adult Literacy Classes*

*Family Activities*

*Parent Conferences*

*Home Visits*

*Community Partnerships*

C. The Lehigh Valley Dual Language Charter School will 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 schools, by:

Plan and implement activities to involve parents, students, community and school staff. Activities will include:

Family Cultural Day

Three Kings Celebration

Snow Tubing

Strengthening Families Program

House Parent Sessions

D. The Lehigh Valley Dual Language Charter School 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:

Partnering with Community Partners who serve children in their early years.

E. The Lehigh Valley Dual Language Charter 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:

*All documents received from the school will be translated into Spanish. Meetings and activities will be conducted in two languages. Automated parent alerts will be sent out in two languages.*

PART III. SCHOOL WIDE PARENT AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

NOTE: The School’s Parent and Engagement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents’ capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children’s academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under section 1116 of the ESSA:

* involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
* providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
* paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
* training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
* arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children’s education;
* adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
* establishing a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;
* developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and

providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

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