



INDEPENDENCE CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Parent & Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Independence Classical Academy receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended. The policy establishes the school's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement and describes how the school will implement several specific parent and family engagement activities. The policy shall be incorporated into the Family handbook, and posted on our website for immediate access to families interested in and currently attending the Independence Classical Academy (ICA)

ICA agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined in Section 1116 of the ESEA, as amended:

- Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended. [§1118(c)(3)]
- Update the school parent and family member policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school, distribute it to the parents and family members of participating children, and make the parental involvement policy available to the local community. [§1118(b)(1)]
- In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of this part, local educational agencies and schools, to the extent practicable, shall provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children), including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESEA, as amended, in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand. [§1116(e)(4)]
- If the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b)(2) of the ESEA, as amended, is

not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the district. [§1118(c)(5)]

- The school district will be governed by the following definition of parental involvement and expects that its Title I, Part A schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

- o Parent Involvement means 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 1116. [§8101(39)]

Required Parent and Family Engagement Policy Components

Joint Development

The Independence Classical Academy will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I, Part A programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by parents, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

Annually, parents are invited to participate in key decision-making processes regarding the charter contract negotiations plan, the school improvement plan, federal programs expenditures, policy development, staff development programs (PD-Title II), parent trainings, and the parent compact.

Annual Title I, Part– A Meeting

The Independence Classical Academy will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school’s Title I, Part A program, the nature of the Title I, Part A program, the parents’ requirements, the school parent and family policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

- Summer Parent Orientation & Family Open House
- Fall Back to School Night – Curriculum Nights, presented by grade level
- Fall Meeting – Review of Title I requirements
- Spring Meeting- Review of Title I requirements
- ICA Website – public posting of all policies, procedures, calendar of events
- Provide a Parent Liaison to the Governing Board
- ICA social media Page for communications
- Publicly Noticed Board meetings with public comment
- Skyward (SIS) family Access notifications for events & opportunities for parents

Communications

The Independence Classical Academy will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children the following:

- Timely information about Title I, Part A programs (Skyward, Facebook, Website, Meetings)
- Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds, transportation & child care, as such services relate to parental involvement.
- 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 state academic standards as well as ICA progression requirements.
- 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 respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.
- 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.
- School Website (easy access & mobile friendly)
- Handbook (digital copy updated and posted online)
- Distribution of School-Parent Compact at Back to School Night and Subsequent Parent Meetings

The Independence Classical Academy will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact which outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

- Review and Feedback at Spring Meeting
- Parent Climate Surveys (will also be used in accreditation process)
- Ongoing Parent Feedback (ICA now allowing comments on social media page)
- Annual Parent Meeting / Back-to-School Night

Coordination

The Independence Classical Academy will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under Title I, Part A with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs.

- Federal Programs Coordinator – use of Sponsor LEA, as needed
- Family Engagement Liaison
- School Leadership Team
- Counseling Department

Building Capacity of Parents and Family Members

The Independence Classical Academy will build the parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership between the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

- Providing parents and family members with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
- Providing parents and family members materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy, & digital effects on education), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement
- Providing assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the following:
 - o The challenging State academic standards.
 - o The State's academic and ICA's internal curricular assessments.
 - o The requirements of Title I, Part A.
 - o How to monitor a child's progress-including how to read PM testing reports
 - o How work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.
- Parent Workshops/Trainings
- Back-to-School Night Meeting
- Website – Notices

Building Capacity of School Staff

The Independence Classical Academy will, with the assistance of its parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, other school leaders, and other staff on how to reach out to, communicate, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools.

- Professional Development
- Parent-Teacher Organization
- Clubs & Committees – Parent & community-led
- Community Relations – Marketing Team

The Independence Classical Academy will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Section 1118 as parents may request.

- Parent Workshops/Trainings
- Back-to-School Night Meeting
- Website – Notices
- Practical Tools for Positive Parenting and Proactive School Partnership – Multiple presentations on how to better accommodate children to improve educational success
- Parent Resources (classical books, reading lists, supplemental activities, education)

Adoption

This school-based parent and family member engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs.

This policy was adopted by the Independence Classical Academy on July 26, 2022 and will be in effect for the period of 2022/23. The school will make available this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before August 10, 2022.