

EDISON BETHUNE CHARTER ACADEMY **PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

Edison Bethune Charter Academy (“EBCA” or the “Charter School”) has developed a written Parent and Family Engagement Policy (“Policy”) with input from Title I parents and families. EBCA will distribute this Policy annually to parents/guardians and families by posting it on the school website, providing a description of the policy in the Student-Parent Handbook, and having copies in the main office to provide upon request. This Policy describes the means for carrying out the following Parent and Family Engagement opportunities.

Charter School Expectations and Objectives

In establishing the Charter School’s expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement, EBCA has established the following practices:

1. EBCA involves parents and family members in the joint development of the Charter School’s Parent and Family Engagement Plan through:
 - Community meetings involving the Charter School’s combined parent committee consisting of Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) and English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC)
 - The School Advisory Board; and
 - Parent/guardian surveys
2. EBCA provides the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity within the Charter School in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education and may consist of:
 - Parent/guardian trainings/workshops
 - EBCA communications
 - Development of the Local Control and Accountability Plan
3. EBCA coordinates and integrates parent and family engagement strategies to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant federal, state, and local laws and programs including:
 - 5 CCR Section 11308 (English Learner Advisory Committee (“ELAC”))
 - Title 1, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
 - Education Code Section 52059.5 et seq. (Local Control and Accountability Plan)
4. EBCA conducts, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Policy in improving the academic quality at the Charter School. This evaluation includes:
 - Parent/guardian surveys

- Assessment of engagement in the design of the Local Control and Accountability Plan
 - Revisiting the Parent and Family Engagement Policy annually to determine any needed changes to content and coverage
5. EBCA conducts, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of barriers to entry, in order to encourage greater participation by parents/guardians/families (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, have children with disabilities have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). This evaluation includes:
- Consultation with our parent committee
 - Review of Local Control and Accountability Plan engagement
 - Consultation with the School Advisory Board
 - Parent/guardian Surveys
 - EBCA communications
6. EBCA conducts, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with Charter School personnel and teachers. This evaluation includes:
- Review of parent/guardian/family trainings and webinars
 - Parent/guardian surveys
 - Consultation with our parent committee
 - Review of Local Control and Accountability Plan engagement
7. EBCA conducts, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of strategies to support successful Charter School and family interactions. This evaluation includes:
- Parent/guardian surveys
 - Consultation with our parent committee
 - Review of Local Control and Accountability Plan engagement
8. EBCA uses the findings of these annual evaluations to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental and family engagement, and to revise, if necessary, the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. The leadership team evaluates the following data to make the needed adjustments to increase effective parental and family engagement:
- Parent/guardian surveys
 - Consultation with our parent committee
 - Review of Local Control and Accountability Plan engagement
9. EBCA involves parents in the activities of the Charter School to adequately represent the needs of the school population for the purposes of developing, revising and reviewing the policy. Such activities include:

- Parent/guardian surveys
 - Consultation with our parent committee
 - Hosting monthly parent/guardian trainings/workshops
10. EBCA engages parents and family members positively in their children’s education by providing assistance and training on topics such as state academic standards and assessments to develop knowledge and skills to use at home to support their children’s academic efforts at school and their children’s development as responsible future members of our society.
- Hosting monthly parent/guardian trainings/workshops
 - Consultation with our parent committee
 - Parent/guardian surveys
11. EBCA informs parents that they can directly affect the success of their children’s learning, by providing parents with techniques and strategies that they may utilize to improve their children’s academic success and to assist their children in learning at home.
- Hosting monthly parent/guardian trainings/workshops and parent committee meetings
 - Parent/teacher conferences
 - EBCA communications and monthly newsletter
12. Parents and family members of children receiving Title I, Part A services shall be involved in the decisions regarding how funds reserved are allotted for parental involvement activities.
- Consultation with our parent committee
 - Parent/guardian surveys
 - Title I information and feedback meeting

Involvement of Parents in the Title I Program

To involve parents in the Title I Program at EBCA, the following practices have been established:

1. EBCA convenes an annual meeting to inform parents of Title I students about Title I requirements in accordance with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), Parents’ Right-To-Know regarding the professional qualifications of their child’s teacher(s).
 - EBCA communications
2. EBCA offers a number of different meeting times for Title I parents, such as meetings in the morning or evening.
 - Invitations are sent out to all parents/guardians
 - Electronic invitations are translated into a language that parents understand through online communication systems

- Notification of meetings will be posted in a timely manner on ParentSquare, Facebook Page, and the Charter School’s monthly newsletter
3. EBCA involves parents of Title I students in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the Charter School’s Title I Program and the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. This is completed through the following:
 - Parent/guardian surveys
 - Review of Local Control and Accountability Plan engagement
 - Parent/guardian trainings/workshops
 4. EBCA provides parents of Title I students with timely information about Title I Programs including: .
 - A description in the Student-Parent Handbook
 - Board-Approved Policies available at a parent’s request
 - EBCA communications
 - EBCA website
 5. EBCA provides parents of Title I students with a description and explanation of the curriculum used at the Charter School, the assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet. This explanation is included in:
 - Student-Parent Handbook
 - EBCA website
 - EBCA communications
 - Parent trainings and webinars
 6. If requested by parents of Title I students, EBCA provides opportunities for regular meetings that allow the parents to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children. These meetings include:
 - Monthly parent/guardian meetings will be held with electronic invitations being sent out to all parents/guardians
 - Local Control and Accountability Plan Educational Partner information meeting(s)
 7. If the school wide program plan is not satisfactory to the parents, EBCA provides a means by which parents may make comments on the plan when it is made available.
 - Parent/guardian surveys
 - Monthly parent/guardian trainings/workshops

This Policy shall be updated periodically to meet changing needs of parents/guardians and the Charter School. If EBCA has additional processes in place for involving parents in planning and designing the Charter School’s programs, the Charter School may use those processes if they include adequate representation of parents of Title I children.

School-Parent Compact

EBCA distributes to parents of Title I students a School-Parent Compact (the “Compact”). The Compact, which has been jointly developed with parents, outlines how parents, the entire Charter School staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. It describes specific ways the Charter School and families will partner to help children achieve the State’s high academic standards. It addresses the following legally required items, as well as other items suggested by parents of Title I students:

1. Acknowledgement that EBCA’s responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment to meet the State’s challenging content standards.
2. The ways in which parents/guardians are responsible for supporting their children’s learning, volunteering in the classroom, and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time.
3. The importance of ongoing communication between parents and teachers through, at a minimum, annual parent-teacher conferences during which the compact will be discussed as it relates to the child’s achievement; frequent reports on student progress; access to staff; opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate in their child’s class; and opportunities to observe classroom activities and ensuring regular two-way meaningful communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand.

The Compact was developed through the discussions at parent meetings and it is distributed through the EBCA website and in the Student-Parent Handbook. It is completed by students, parents, and teachers. Completed forms are kept in the main office. A copy of the School-Parent Compact is included on page seven of this policy.

Building Capacity for Involvement

EBCA engages Title I parents in meaningful interactions with the Charter School. The Charter School supports a partnership among staff, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. To help reach these goals, EBCA has established the following practices.

1. EBCA provides Title I parents with assistance in understanding challenging state academic standards, state and local assessments, and how to monitor and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children. This assistance is provided in:
 - Parent/guardian trainings and webinars
 - EBCA communications
 - Parent/Student/Teacher meetings

2. EBCA provides Title I parents with materials and training, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement and to help parents/guardians and families work with their children to improve their children's achievement. These trainings are included in:
 - Parent/guardian trainings and webinars
 - EBCA communications
3. With the assistance of Title I parents, EBCA educates teachers, principals, and staff members about the value of parent contributions, and in how to reach out, communicate with, and work with parents/guardians and families as equal partners to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and the Charter School. This education includes:
 - Parent/guardian trainings and webinars
 - School-sponsored events
4. EBCA coordinates and integrates the Title I parental involvement program with other programs, and conducts other activities, such as parent resource centers, to encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children. These activities include:
 - Parent/guardian trainings and webinars
 - School-sponsored events
 - EBCA communications
5. EBCA distributes information related to Charter School and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to Title I parents in a format and language that the parents/guardians will understand.
 - Monthly parent/guardian meetings with invitations being sent out to all parents/guardians
 - Electronic invitations are translated into a language that parents understand through online communication systems
 - Notification of meetings will be posted in a timely manner on ParentSquare, Facebook Page, and EBCA's monthly newsletter
6. EBCA provides support for parental involvement activities requested by Title I parents including.
 - Parent/guardian surveys
 - Title I information and feedback meeting

Accessibility

EBCA provides opportunities for the participation of all Title I parents and family members, including parents/families with limited English proficiency, parents/families of students with

disabilities, and parents/families of migratory students. Information and school reports are provided in a format and language designed for parents/families to understand, including by:

- Using a digital format that can be translated with the use of technology
- Presenting information in a way that is understandable by parents/guardians and families
- Presenting information visually and verbally, as appropriate