

## **Districtwide Parent and Family Engagement Activities**

# **Our philosophy**

We believe all children are successful learners when effectively taught in a way that addresses their individual learning styles. We will ensure a nurturing environment for the whole child-mentally, physically, emotionally, and socially, while establishing guidelines and boundaries in which there are unlimited opportunities to flourish, learn and grow.

We believe that children are motivated through fun and innovative experiences. Therefore, we will provide developmentally appropriate activities and resources which enhance each child's learning adventure.

#### **Mission**

**Strategic Intent:** To produce a school that adequately supports students in their journey to become healthy, economically self-sufficient, and fulfilled adults who contribute positively to their communities. **Mission Statement:** DRAW Academy will provide all students with a personalized, supportive, and engaging school environment where they can obtain the knowledge and skills necessary to find success as individuals and as members of their communities. The focus of the curriculum will incorporate active, project-based learning, which connects learning across academic disciplines and by addressing the specific academic needs of students. The daily curriculum will actively engage students in multiple language development and utilize current technology tools. The school will celebrate student diversity as an important contribution to the greater society.

# **Core Beliefs:**

- 1. That every child deserves to feel known and valued.
- 2. That education must be experiential and must provide applicable real-world opportunities.

D.R.A.W. ACADEMY - Diversity Roots and Wings

Pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup> grade TEA Charter School # 101856

Main 3920 Stoney Brook Dr. .:::. Upper Elementary 3903 Stoney Brook Dr. .::.. Early Learning 7914 Westglen Dr. .::.. Annex 3911 Stoney Brook Dr. Houston, TX. 77063



- 3. That education must empower the child with many options.
- 4. That educators must be child advocates.
- 5. That education should be experienced beyond the school walls.
- 6. That all children must be treated with fundamental respect.
- 7. That the school, the student, community, and the parents are partners in the educational process.
- 8. That the community at large is a valuable and essential resource.
- 9. That the students' right to choose is a fundamental part of the educational process.
- 10. That career practitioners are valuable resources that must be used.

## **Policy Involvement:**

The charter involves parents in the Title I LEA planning, reviewing, and improvementing process through a series of meetings and yearly interactions. Parent and family engagement objectives and expectations are decided and communicated through parent conferences with our LEA and parent conferences with our teachers. All parents are welcome and encouraged to schedule meetings with the principal in order to voice any concerns.

We involve Parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way in planning, reviewing and explaining Title I laws, requirements, and the rights and benefits are explained.

There are many ways in which parents/guardians can become involved with their child's education. Many types of parent/guardian involvement are needed in a school-home community partnership to ensure that all children succeed. As a Title I, Part A district wide we have the responsibility for creating meaningful ways for parents/guardians to be involved in their child's education. Parents/guardians are encouraged to participate in a variety of parent/guardian involvement activities such as serving as a member or leader in the Parent-Teacher Association (PTO) and serving as a campus volunteer.



## **Parent Meetings**:

We have Parent meetings every other month. At these meetings we give parents information about our Title I programs, including tutoring. We describe our curriculum, explain our expectations for our students, and explain how we measure student performance. We also listen to our parents' suggestions.

All parent meetings are both in Spanish and English. Literature is also provided in both languages.

To facilitate communication between parents/guardians and school personnel, the following strategies may be utilized: monthly newsletters, written notifications, phone calls, emails, social media. Communication between parents/guardians and school personnel must be in a language parents/guardians understand

An annual meeting for Title I, Part A parents/guardians will be held as a stand-alone meeting. where parents/guardians are informed about how funds are used on their child's campus for parent/guardian involvement activities. This annual meeting must be offered at times that are most convenient for parents/guardians.

### **School/Parent Compact:**

A school/parent compact was developed. It explains how parents, school staff, and the students will all share responsibility for each student's success.

# Parent training, involvement and communication:

Materials and training is provided to help parents assist their children with schoolwork.

We offer a number of meetings with parents in English and Spanish, schedule campus-wide activities to build community and positively involve our parents; including math/reading nights, book fair, field trips, parent conferences and send home notices of our testing calendar.

D.R.A.W. ACADEMY - Diversity Roots and Wings

Pre-K to 8th grade TEA Charter School # 101856



Parents have the right to have a copy of the law and an explanation of Title I policy. Activities are coordinated and intertwined with other grants used for academic resources, the school improvement plan provides objectives that assist our planning for family engagement strategies.

Title I funds are reserved for financially supporting these activities. Among these activities, DRAW Academy offers ESL classes for parents at different schedules and different levels of proficiency.

Also parents are encouraged to participate in field trips and classroom activities with their children. In these meetings parents receive information to help support their children with school activities.

#### **Report Cards:**

To assure parent participation and discussion regarding their children's academic progress, DRAW Academy conducts six annual individual meetings with the teacher. On this occasion the period report card is delivered to the parents in person. This conversation with the teacher allows parents to deeply understand their children's level of education and his/her progress offering different ways to support the parents for any help that can be provided at home.

# **Barriers:**

If childcare or transportation is an obstacle for involvement, the school will provide resources upon request.

Through annual beginning of the year meetings, regularly scheduled PTO's, and parent conferences the charter announces various opportunities for parents to review, revise, and develop the family engagement's LEA policy. In the case the plan is deemed unsatisfactory by a participating parent, the parent may choose to communicate suggestions and/concerns through a scheduled meeting with Ms. Patricia Beistegui or via email communication. Any technical support needed by our parents may be requested at any time.

D.R.A.W. ACADEMY - Diversity Roots and Wings

Pre-K to 8th grade TEA Charter School # 101856



Data is collected through various forms for parent engagement effectiveness including parent surveys and parent participation reports. Online modes of communication and attendance are provided for maximum participation. The evaluation process includes collecting data in regards to reasoning of lack of participation, parent education needs and strategies to better support this effort. The results are then evaluated by the parent engagement committee and changes to the parent and family engagement policy are made.

#### PTO schedule:

The school PTO meets regularly every second Thursday of the month starting in September.

This policy is presented for discussion and commentary on the first meeting of each school year.

In this meeting, in collaboration with parents/guardians, DRAW Academy conducts an annual consultation to review the content and effectiveness of all federal programs and parents and guardians are asked for input.

The School evaluates the Title I, parent/guardian involvement program by collecting survey information from parents/guardians. This survey is designed to measure parent/guardian involvement and identify any barriers to assure their effective participation.

At this meeting, DRAW Academy reviews and revises, as necessary, the district parent/guardian involvement policy on the basis of this annual review.

At this initial meeting parents are asked to collaborate with teachers in different groups discussion proposals to improve the plan.

D.R.A.W. ACADEMY - Diversity Roots and Wings

Pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup> grade TEA Charter School # 101856



These are presented to the Parent-Teacher compact for further discussion, elaboration, and improvement.

\_\_\_\_

Adopted school year 2016-2017 - Ms. Patricia Beistegui - Program Coordinator

Revised: August 2020 - Ms. Patricia Beistegui - Program Coordinator

Revised: January 2023 - Ms. Maria Fernanda Soto

#### D.R.A.W. ACADEMY - Diversity Roots and Wings