



## **2024-2025 Parent/Family Engagement Policy**

DRAW Academy participates with

- Every Student Succeeds Act, Title I, Part A federal program
- High-Quality Prekindergarten state requirements

Parent and family engagement is a priority in all aspects of participation. This document outlines the charter's parent and family engagement plans as required under each program.

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.
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.

## **ESSA, Title I, Part A Parent and Family Engagement Requirements**

*As a Charter school with one campus, this document serves as the LEA and Campus PFE policy with all required components.*

**Participation In Evaluating the Parent/Guardian Involvement Policy:** District activities will promote and encourage parent/guardian involvement, including parent/guardian participation in the decision-making process regarding the Title I, Part A program. As such, the district will offer parent/guardian consultation meetings to collaborate, review and evaluate the parent/guardian involvement policy, the LEA Program Plan, the Schoolwide Program Plan, School-Parent Compact, and any improvement plans required should DRAW Academy be identified in school improvement. Volunteers invited to these consultation meetings will include parents, guardians, Title I Coordinators, Title I campus contacts (or other campus staff members), charter administrators, and community representatives whose partnerships would benefit parent partnerships.

The goal of the consultation will be to

- review and update the district parent/guardian involvement policy to ensure charter and campus activities engage parents/guardians effectively;
- identify barriers to greater participation by parents, with an emphasis on parents of students with special developmental or language needs;
- identify the needs of parents and family members to assist with the academic development of their children; and
- discuss strategies to support successful school and family partnerships.

DRAW Academy serves one ~~PreK-K~~ PreK-8 campus that is identified as a Schoolwide Program. As such, this Parent and Family Engagement Policy encompasses both

campus and district requirements. During this process, should parents identify dissatisfaction with the Schoolwide Program Plan, the Pre- K-8 campus will collect those comments and submit them to the charter administration office for submission with the ESSA Consolidated Application.

Because we understand that not all parents can engage in face-to-face meetings, DRAW Academy will also send out an annual Parent Engagement Survey in the Fall. The results will be used during Spring consultation meetings when evaluating programs and practices.

**Parent/Guardian Engagement:** We involve Parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way in reviewing and understanding Title I laws, requirements, and parent/guardian rights under this title-.

DRAW Academy pledges to offer a multitude of opportunities for parents/guardians to become involved with their child's education by building the capacity of district and campus staff in planning and implementing family engagement activities. We understand that family engagement is key in a school-home community partnership to ensure that all children succeed. Each Title I, Part A campus (with the charter school administration support) is responsible for implementing meaningful ways for parents/guardians to be involved in their child's education. DRAW Academy will coordinate activities with other relevant Federal, State and local programs to ensure we are honoring time provided to us by parent/guardian volunteers. Additionally, 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:** DRAW Academy holds Parent meetings every other month, with a varying schedule to ensure parent/guardian participation, and notifies parents of these meetings via monthly newsletters, written notifications, phone calls, emails and social media. All communication follows the DRAW Academy Translation Procedure to ensure information is provided in a language parents/guardians understand.

DRAW Academy will also schedule a stand-alone annual meeting for Title I, Part A parents/guardians to be offered twice in the fall – different days and different times to encourage participation aligns with parent/guardian schedules. During this meeting, parents/guardians are informed about the Title I, Part A program, how funds are used on their child's campus, parents' right to know, DRAW Academy curriculum, forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress toward the State academic standards.

**School/Parent Compact:** A school/Parent compact is developed and reviewed annually during consultation meetings described above. The School-Parent compact

outlines responsibilities for parents, school staff and students in developing the whole child toward academic and future success.

### **Parent Training, Involvement And Communication:**

Materials and training are provided to help parents assist their children with schoolwork. We offer a number of meetings with parents in English and Spanish and English to schedule campus-wide activities to build community and positively involve our parents, such as Math/reading nights, book fair, field trip, parent conferences and send home notices of our testing calendar. Parents have the right to have a copy of the law and an explanation of Title I policy.

Staff Training in the Value and Utility of Parents/Guardian

Toward building staff capacity in parent/guardian relationships, DRAW Academy will hold a staff training in the value and utility of parents each fall. Parent feedback will be collected prior to the training to ensure parent voice is at the heart of this messaging.

### **High-Quality Prekindergarten Components for Family Engagement**

DRAW Academy Point-of-Contact:

**Patricia Beistegui: 713-706-3729**

- Facilitating family-to-family support
  - Through our Parent Training activities, DRAW Academy hopes to provide activities that build positive and productive relationships that allows families to become their own resource network.
  - We strive to provide a safe environment on campus to promote comfortable learning environments for all learners.
- Establishing a network of community resources
  - DRAW Academy will invite community resource partners and outreach centers in the county to parent meetings to ensure parent knowledge regarding community services that may be available to them.
- Increasing family participation in decision-making
  - Through our charter consultation meetings with parents, we strive to ensure our families' voice is validated in the decisions regarding their children's education.
- Equipping families with tools to enhance and extend learning
  - Parent meetings held every other month are meant to build capacity within the families that we serve to better partner with the education system toward their child's success. Topics for the meetings will be determined by the parent consultation meetings and parent surveys.
  - Materials and training are also provided to parents on the student skills being taught within the classroom.

- Developing staff skills in evidence-based practices that support families in meeting their children's learning benchmarks
  - DRAW Academy will continue to support district staff in understanding the value and contribution of parent partners to include communication skills training for all staff.
- Evaluating family engagement efforts and using evaluations for continuous improvement
  - Each spring, DRAW Academy will evaluate their family engagement efforts via surveys, parent consultation meetings and reviewing attendance at designated parent meetings. Results of the evaluation will drive activities for the next year's family engagement services.