

Parent Engagement Policy

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

InspireNOLA Charter Schools, hereinafter referred to as “InspireNOLA,” agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- Consistent with section 1118, InspireNOLA will work to ensure that the required school level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118 of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- InspireNOLA will notify parents of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. The policy will be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A, parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, InspireNOLA 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 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in language parents understand.
- If the school-wide program plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1114(b) of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, individual schools will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school submits the plan to InspireNOLA.
- InspireNOLA 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 1 percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- InspireNOLA will build its own and the parent’s 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.
- InspireNOLA will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 of the ESEA as the parents may request.
- InspireNOLA will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and 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

PART II. IMPLEMENTATION

This section includes a description of how InspireNOLA Charter Schools will implement each of the following components as prescribed in Section 1118, ESEA.

InspireNOLA:

- Disseminates the Parent and Family Engagement Handbook/Policy through orientations, meetings, parent/teacher organization/association meetings, and on the InspireNOLA and school websites.
- Meets annually with administrators, teachers, and support staff of each Title I school to review, reorganize and/or evaluate policies and schoolwide and targeted assistance plans.

- Meets annually with administrators, teachers, and support staff of each Title I school to review, reorganize and/or evaluate the School-Parent Compacts.
- Assist the Title I Schools in the preparation of materials for parents and attends school's beginning of year parent orientations.
- Meet annually with advisory board and the action team members of each Title I school to discuss requirements, updates, ESSA and changes as it relates to Title I.
- Meet with advisory board in regards to dissatisfaction or complaints.
- Highlight parent and family engagement activities through the media, through newsletters, emails, and phone calls to parents at the network and school level.
- Help parents develop parenting skills to meet the basic obligations of family life and foster conditions at home, which emphasize the importance of education and learning.
- Provide schools with activities and partnerships that are designed to help reach schools improvement goals and objectives.
- Collaborate with the community and other, local, state and national agencies to offer services for students, parents and other family members.
- Support the schools in their effort to contact hard-to-reach parents and family members via meaningful "Home Visits."

InspireNOLA will ensure that each Title I school has:

- A written comprehensive parent and family engagement policy that meets the needs of all students participating in the Title I program.
- A plan to ensure that parents and key family members are involved in the development of school-wide and targeted assistance plans.
- An "Action Team" is organized at each school for the school, family and community partnerships. The action team will take responsibility for assessing present practices including school improvement, implementing selected activities, and coordinating practice for all six types of involvement.
- Periodic scheduled meetings at the school with teachers, administrators, and other staff to discuss the curriculum, standards and assessments or innovative strategies the school is using to improve learning.
- A plan to inform parents of their child's progress prior to the nine-week reporting periods.
- Prepared packets of essential information that will help parents feel comfortable with the staff and school environment.
- Developed a technology friendly environment for parents to access information and skills regarding the school's total available resources/curriculum.

Building Capacity for Involvement

Title I Parent and Family Engagement will:

- Assist all schools in developing a comprehensive parent and family engagement program that will meet the needs of the students and their families served.
- Disseminates the Parent and Family Engagement Handbook/Policy through orientations, meetings, parent/teacher organization/association meetings, and on the InspireNOLA and school websites.
- Offer meetings, workshops, training, etc. at flexible times so that maximum number of parents can be involved.
- Promote two-way communications (home-to-school and school-to-home) about programs serving Title I students, student progress, school curriculum, and the assessments used to measure student progress.
- Involve parents and family members with appropriate training in instruction and support when at the school and in other locations that help the school and students reach state given objectives and standards.
- Help parents develop a feeling of partnership in the educational growth and development of their children.
- Encourage parents and other family members to actively participate in all school related programs and activities

- Provide parents and family members with strategies and techniques for assisting their children with learning activities at home that support and extend the school's instructional program
- Provide parents and family members with skills to access community and support services that strengthen school programs, family practices and student learning and development.
- Help parents and family members develop parenting skills to meet the basic obligations of family life and foster conditions at home, which emphasize the importance of education and learning.
- Provide schools with activities and partnerships that are designed to help reach schools improvement goals and objectives.
- Collaborate with the community and other, local, state and national agencies to offer services for students, parents and other family members.
- Support the schools in their effort to contact hard-to-reach parents and family members via meaningful "Home Visits."

Parents Right to Know:

- Parents will be informed in a timely manner information regarding the professional qualifications of their children's classroom teachers.
- Procedures will be in accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

InspireNOLA will coordinate with other Agencies by:

- Hosting workshops that focus on early childhood education, specific subject areas and grade level meetings that target needs of Title I students.
- Informing parents of students on-going activities initiated and conducted by other agencies in the district, especially Head Start and Preschools programs.
- Encouraging parents to accept and/or participate in the services provided by the community and other local, state and national agencies.

ADOPTION

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, InspireNOLA Charter Schools Network recognizes that parent and family engagement is the key to academic achievement. The term "parent" refers to any caregiver who assumes responsibility for nurturing and caring for children, including parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, foster parents, step-parents, etc.

InspireNOLA Charter Schools, jointly with, agree on, and developed this family engagement policy in consultation with school personnel, community members, and families, and adopted it on (insert date)

This policy was distributed to families of participating children and to the extent practicable, provided in languages the families understand. This policy will be made available to the local community via the InspireNOLA and school websites and in hard copy upon request. This family engagement plan will be updated annually to meet the changing needs of families, students, and the school.

(Signature of Authorized Official)

(Date)