

Title I, Part A LEA-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Purpose

Title I is the largest federal aid program for public schools and the program provides additional funds for assisting student in meeting the Arizona Content Area Standards. Title I provides supplemental funds that support a variety of school-based activities and programs. Because Grande Innovation Academy receives Title 1 funds, the school must have a parent and family engagement policy that describes how the school and parents will work together to improve students' academic achievement. This Parent and Family Engagement Policy describes the means for carrying out designated Title I, Part A, parent and family engagement requirements pursuant to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1116(a).

Policy Details

It is the policy of Grande Innovation Academy that parents and family members of participating children have the opportunity to be jointly involved in the development of the school's Integrated Action Plan and in the school's review process for the purpose of school improvement.

Recognizing that parental involvement is the key to academic achievement, Grande Innovation Academy seeks to involve parents in an effective home-school partnership that will provide the best possible education for students.

1. This jointly developed and agreed upon written policy is distributed to all parents and family members at the time of registration. In school-wide buildings, this includes all parents. Additional copies are available, year-round, in the main office.
2. Grande Innovation Academy leaders provide all staff with technical assistance and support in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. The school will, as needed, partner with community groups as a means to engage families more creatively and successfully.
3. Grande Innovation Academy works cooperatively with other Federal, state, and local programs; e.g., the Title I program will work with, as appropriate, local preschools, local library programs, and special education programs (IDEA). The school's homeless education program coordinates with the ADE and local programs to support students that are food insecure, especially over the school breaks.
4. The school conducts an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. The evaluation includes parents in a meaningful manner. Namely, Grande Innovation Academy uses surveys and an open-door policy to obtain feedback for this evaluation. Parents and families have a voice. The evaluation is used to identify the needs of parents and families to better support and assist their children in learning. The evaluations target family engagement perceptions, satisfaction, and ability to assist learning.
5. Grande Innovation Academy uses the findings for the annual evaluation to design evidenced-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement.
6. There is an established parent advisory committee comprised of a sufficient number and

representative group of parents or family members to adequately represent the needs to the population. Grande Innovation Academy also has a Parent and Family Engagement Policy. In addition, the school provides opportunities for parents to participate in decision making roles (as appropriate), volunteer opportunities, and parent-teacher conferences. Parent-teacher meetings are scheduled at any time, as requested by parents.

7. At least one annual meeting will be held to inform parents and family members of the school's participation in the Title I program and to explain the requirements of the program and their right to be involved. Notification will be sent home with students, posted at school, and placed in the school's newsletter or website.
8. Parent and family meetings, including parent conferences, will be held at different times during the day and Title I funds may be used to pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent and family engagement activities, including transportation, childcare, or home visit expenses to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
9. Grande Innovation Academy will involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's Title I program through participation in stakeholder groups and in-person meetings where parents give input and feedback. In a schoolwide program plan, parents are asked to be involved in the joint development of the building's schoolwide plan through in-person meetings/feedback and surveys.
10. Parents and family members of participating children are given assistance in understanding the Title I program, with timely information about the Title I program. Through annual meetings and parent-teacher conferences, the school provides parents and family members of participating children with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet. This information is available during the annual parent meeting, through individual reports given to parents at conference time, and through report cards.
11. If requested by parents, the school will provide 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.
12. A jointly developed school/parent compact outlines how parents and family members, the entire school staff, and students all share responsibility for improved student achievement. The compact also describes the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve high standards. It is distributed in the parent handbook, at enrollment, and is reviewed during parent/teacher conferences.
13. Parents will be clearly notified of this policy provided in a language the parents can understand.
14. The school, to the extent practicable, will 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) by providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 in a format and language the parties can understand. (ESSA Section 11116(f))

More information is available in the Scholar Handbook.