



WISSAHICKON CHARTER SCHOOL

TITLE I SCHOOL PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

The mission of the Wissahickon Charter School (WCS) is to provide a community of learning with an environmental focus that stimulates the child's intellectual, social, and character development. Caregivers, students, teachers, and administrators are allies in the community of learning. This policy outlines how the Wissahickon Charter School will support the involvement of caregivers in this community.

I. ENCOURAGING INVOLVEMENT

To ensure effective involvement of caregivers, and to support a partnership among the caregivers, community and school to improve student achievement, WCS will conduct the following activities:

- A. Hold an annual parent meeting on Back to School Night that discusses:
 1. The school's participation in Title 1
 2. The requirements of the program and the rights of caregivers to be involved
 3. A description of the school's curriculum
 4. The forms of academic assessment used at the WCS
 5. The proficiency levels students are expected to meet
 6. How caregivers can monitor their child's progress
 7. How caregivers can work with teachers to improve the achievement of their children
 8. How to use the available resources at WCS (reading/math specialists, learning supports, guidance services and peer-to-peer support) to address and improve student achievement.

- B. Monitor a child's progress and communicate to caregivers through the avenues listed below. Every effort will be made to maintain the privacy and confidentiality of this information.
 1. Written progress reports three times a year.
 2. Hold report card conferences for caregivers to meet with teachers at the first and second report card issuance and schedule these at different times during the day.
 3. Provide interim reports as needed. Teachers will send information to caregivers about student progress, attendance and behavior on an on-going basis, noting both successes and areas needing improvement.
 4. Distribute standardized test scores as they become available
 5. Follow all of the requirements under IDEA, where appropriate to ensure that caregivers of Special Education students are fully informed about, and participate in, the ongoing evaluation of their child's progress and achievement.

- C. Assist caregivers in understanding the State's academic content standards and student achievement standards, local academic assessments and how to monitor a child's progress and work with teachers to improve the achievement of their children by:
 - 1. Distribute standardized test scores as they become available along with a letter on how to interpret the scores
 - 2. Discuss student achievement standards, local academic assessments and how to monitor a child's progress and work with teachers at Back to School night
- D. Provide regular opportunities for caregivers to make suggestions and participate in decisions relating to the education of their children and the school's Title 1 program. WCS will respond to any suggestions for changes as soon as practicably possible. Caregivers wishing to make suggestions are encouraged to attend and participate in Wissahickon Parent Council meetings, drop off their suggestions at the school or schedule a meeting with the appropriate person(s) at the school.
- E. Send information related to school and caregiver programs, meetings, and other activities to the caregivers in a format and language they can understand. This includes newsletters, the Weekly Wissahickon, Parent Council meetings, Report card conferences, the school calendar, and the student handbook.
- F. Provide support for caregiver involvement activities as caregivers may request. Title 1 funds may be used to pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with caregiver involvement activities. Examples include providing childcare, covering transportation costs, purchasing materials or providing refreshments.
- G. Provide materials and workshops for caregivers around educational and parenting issues to help caregivers work with their children to improve their children's achievement.
- H. Encourage caregivers to participate in the Wissahickon Parent Council, in school activities and events and as classroom volunteers when possible; stress to caregivers that research shows that parental involvement has a positive effect on student achievement.

II. SCHOOL PARENT COMPACT

The WCS School-Parent Compact was jointly developed with, agreed upon by, and distributed to all caregivers. The compact describes how caregivers, students, and the entire school staff, will share in the responsibility for student achievement. A team of people – including caregivers, community members, school administrators, faculty and staff – will annually review the School-Parent Compact along with the parent involvement policy and Schoolwide Program Plan. The School/Parent Compact will be distributed to caregivers during Back to School night each year.

III. POLICY & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

The Wissahickon Charter School (WCS) Title 1 School Parent Involvement Policy was drafted with the help of the Wissahickon Parent Partnership (WPP). The Parental

involvement policy will be updated as needed and reviewed annually by a team of people – including caregivers, community members, school and district administrators, and school faculty and staff members – in order to continuously meet the changing needs of our caregivers, students, and school. The review will be based on feedback provided by the caregiver surveys.

Caregivers will also be involved in the development, review and improvement of the Title 1 program and Title 1 Schoolwide Program Plan. Review of the Schoolwide Program Plan will occur concurrently with review of the parent involvement policy and will also be based on the caregiver surveys and input provided by caregivers from Parent Council meetings, report card conferences and suggestions submitted to the school.

IV. ADOPTION

This policy will be in effect for the period of September 2016 - September 2017. The school district will distribute this policy to all caregivers of participating Title I, Part A children on or before 9/30/2016.