



TITLE I SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY 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. The school will also provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement. Methods of distribution will include 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.
- I. Educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, and other staff, with

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- the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents and family members, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents and family members as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and family members and the school. Activities to this end will include (but not be limited to) professional development sessions on parent engagement; staff attendance at Wissahickon Parent Partnership meetings; and providing staff with relevant reading materials on parent involvement strategies via weekly staff emails.
- J. Coordinate and integrate, to the extent feasible and appropriate, parent involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, primarily by sharing relevant resources focused on fostering parent engagement throughout the Philadelphia region via the Weekly Wissahickon.
 - K. Make, in all of the above mentioned activities, all practicable effort to allow 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). These efforts may include, but are not limited to, arranging for language interpretation services upon request and providing reasonable accommodations for family members with disabilities to participate in parent involvement activities.

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 and evaluated 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, a review of feedback from parents at our annual Back to School Night, and an annual Title 1 Parent Meeting held each spring.



Recognizing that family engagement is critical to the progress of both individual students and the school as a whole, the evaluation will focus on identifying:

1. barriers to greater participation by parents and family members, with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background;
2. the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and
3. strategies to support successful school and family interactions

Based on the findings of the annual evaluation, we will identify strategies to address barriers to parent and family engagement by reviewing evidence-based practices, consulting with peer schools, and other strategies as needed.

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 2022 - September 2023. The school district will distribute this policy to all caregivers of participating Title I, Part A children on or before 09/30/2022.