

LWCS LEA Parental Involvement Policy/Plan 2011-2012

2011-2012 LEA Parental Involvement Policy/Plan LEA: Lake Wales Charter Schools

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, each Local Educational Agency (LEA) that receives Title I, Part A funds must develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents of participating children a written parental involvement policy that contains information required by section 1118(a)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations for parental involvement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parental involvement activities, and is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) as required in Section 1112(b)(P) of ESEA.

Assurances

The LEA agrees to:

- The LEA will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs consistent with Section 1118 of the ESEA. Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children;
- Consistent with Section 1118, the LEA will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of Section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each includes, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1118(d) of the ESEA;
- The LEA will incorporate this LEA-wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA;
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A, parental involvement requirements to the extent practicable, the LEA and its schools 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 a language parents understand [Section 1118(f)];
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the LEA will submit any parent comments with the plan when the LEA submits the plan to FDOE [Section 1118(b)(4)];
- The LEA will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is allocated, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved is distributed directly to the schools, after equitable provisions have been provided to participating private schools [Section 1118(a)(3)(A-C)];
- The LEA will be governed by the statutory definition of "parental involvement" as defined in Section 9101 (32), and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition; and
- The LEA will inform parents and parent organizations of the purpose and existence of both Parent Information and Resource Center(s) (PIRC) in the state [Section 1118(g)].

LEA Parental Involvement Policy

1. Describe the actions the LEA will take to involve parents in the following required policies/plans: LEA-wide parental involvement policy [Section 1118(a)(2)]; LEA plan [Sections 1112 (c)(H), 1112(d)(1)]; School review and improvement under Section 1116

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[Sections 1118(a)(2)(A), 1116(a)(1)(D), 1116(b)(3)(A)]; and □ How the funds reserved for parental involvement will be allocated [Section 1118(a)(2)].

The Lake Wales Charter Schools will use each school's School Advisory Council (SAC) as the LEA parent group that will develop the LEA Parent Involvement Policy (PIP) in cooperation with LWCS Leadership Team members. (Every school in the LWCS system is a Title I school.) These groups will be responsible for evaluating and implementing the PIP. LWCS Leadership Team will coordinate technical assistance and training needs.

SAC members are selected according to well-established guidelines and Florida statute, and each SAC represents the diversity of the school community it serves. All LWCS schools have active and diverse SACs.

The LEA Parent Involvement Policy will be submitted to each SAC to provide review, feedback and evaluation. Information from the feedback/evaluation process will be used to update the plan annually.

As required by law, at least 95% of the 1% allocation for parent involvement will be sent to the schools. Each SAC will determine how the parent involvement allocation is spent.

Technical Assistance

2. Describe the actions the LEA will take to provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities which build the capacity of parents to improve the academic achievement of their child and overall school performance [Section 1118(a)(2)(B and C) and 1118(e)(1-14)]. Include a description of the process the LEA will use to review the school-level PIPs to ensure compliance with Section 1118 [34 CFR 200.30(e)]. Include information on how the LEA will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Section 1118 as parents may request [Section 1118(e)(14)].

The LWCS Leadership Team will coordinate technical assistance and assure that all six schools coordinate parent involvement activities.

Each school will designate an administrator or Title I Facilitator with on-site responsibility for all aspects of Title I programs and compliance, including parent involvement and the school PIP. In addition, the LWCS system will identify key employees to assist as Title I trainers and mentors due to their previous Title I experience.

The LWCS central office will provide support with parent/community communication through publicity via newspapers, radio, website, social media, etc. and assist individual schools with outreach via parent newsletters, school websites, ConnectEd phone calls, etc.

Title I Facilitators, LWCS director of accountability and other LWCS Leadership Team members will coordinate annual surveys, data collection, etc.

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Coordination with Other Federal Programs

3. Describe how the LEA will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies from Part A of Title I with other federal programs (including but not limited to Head Start, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents As Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY), Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten, Parts C and D of Title I, Title III, and Part A of Title IV) [Sections 1118 (a)(2)(D) and 1118(e)(4)].

1. Title I Part C migrant
 - a. Title I Facilitators will meet with migrant parents to build capacity; literacy strategies
2. Title I Part III ELL
 - a. Title I Facilitators will meet with ELL parents to build capacity; literacy strategies
3. IDEA
 - a. Title I Facilitators will coordinate services with ESE parents/teachers to build capacity

Annual Evaluation

4. Describe the actions the LEA will take to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of the Title I, Part A schools [Section 1118(a)(2)(E)].

Parent involvement survey will be distributed every spring to assist in the evaluation and revision of the LEA PIP and school-level PIPs. Survey will be sent to each SAC member, and randomly to parents. Year-end results will be reviewed by each SAC and the LEA Leadership Team.

SACs and the LEA Leadership Team will consider all feedback/suggestions and evaluate the effectiveness of the current school-level PIP and LEA PIP, including any barriers and needs. After review and agreement by SACs the LEA Leadership Team, new strategies and activities based on survey results will be incorporated into the new plans.

School-site vs. LEA-wide Activities

5. If the LEA plans to implement LEA-wide activities, describe the actions the LEA will take to build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school(s) involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement [Sections 1118(a)(2)(C), 1118(e)(1-14)].

If all activities will be conducted at the school level, check here . **X**

Professional Development

6. Describe the professional development activities the LEA will provide, with the assistance of the schools and parents, to educate staff on the value and utility of contributions of parents; how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners; the implementation

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and coordination of parent programs; and how to build ties between parents and the school [Section 1118 (e)(3)].

The following activities/trainings will be conducted at each school site, to educate staff on the specifics of the Title I PIP, the value of parent involvement and strong parent-school partnerships:

1. PIP requirements at each school & implementation of PIP
 - a. Asst Principal and Title I Facilitator
 - i. PIP written in DOE school format/implementation meets section 1118
 1. SY 2012 ongoing
 - a. Completion of school-level online PIP
2. PIP requirements at each school & implementation of PIP
 - a. Asst Principal and Title I Facilitator
 - i. Increased understanding of PIP according to section 1118, and increased parental involvement in schools
 1. SY 2012 ongoing
 - a. SAC agendas, minutes, lists of all school activities
3. Capacity of parents to understand how they can be involved and partner with schools to increase student achievement
 - a. Asst Principal and Title I Facilitator
 - i. Increased understanding of strategies to build capacity of parents to partner with schools to increase student achievement
 1. SY 2012 ongoing
 - a. Increase in AYP percentage met at each school site
4. Capacity of parents to understand how they can be involved and understand curriculum, assessments, and proficiency levels
 - a. Guidance counselors, academic intervention coaches and/or Title I Facilitators
 - i. Increased capacity building in parents regarding parent involvement
 1. SY 2012 ongoing
 - a. Parent survey results

Opportunities for Participation

7. Describe how the LEA will provide full opportunities for participation in parental involvement activities for all parents (including parents with limited English proficiency, disabilities, and migratory children). Include how the LEA plans to share information related to school and parent programs, meetings, school reports, and other activities in an understandable and uniform format and to the extent practical, in a language parents can understand [Section 1118(e)(5) and 1118(f)].

Our LWCS schools use both conventional and unconventional strategies to communicate with parents, including but not limited to the following:

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- Parent meetings, family events, trainings, etc. (often with on-site translators, & Talk System)
- Strong publicity program in local newspapers
- Partnership with Lake Wales News (twice weekly paper) which is delivered to homes of LWCS students
- School signs
- ConnectEd phone calls (dual languages when feasible)
- Teacher & school newsletters (backpack and direct mail) in dual languages when feasible
- School & LWCS websites
- Social media (our LWCS facebook page has more than 1,050 active friends – mainly students & parents receiving regular information about happenings in our schools)
- School administration and/or staff will make home visits when needed to assist parents with various needs

Discretionary LEA Parental Involvement Policy Components

The LEA parental involvement policy may include additional discretionary activities that the LEA, in consultation with parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement [Section 1118(e)].

Check all activities the LEA plans to implement:

- Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions [Section 1118(e)(8)];

8. Describe how the discretionary activities checked above will be implemented.

1. Parent involvement activities/trainings, school-related meetings
 - i. Increased capacity building in parents regarding parent involvement
 1. LEA Leadership Team
 - a. Parent survey results
 - i. FY 2012

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