



UTOPIAN
ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS

School Parental Involvement Policy

Utopian Academy for the Arts

School Year 2016-2017

Revision Date 07/29/2016

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Utopian Academy for the Arts receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents of participating children a written parental involvement policy that contains information required by section 1118(b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). The policy establishes the school's expectations for parental involvement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parental involvement activities, and it is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

Utopian Academy for the Arts agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1118:

- Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parental involvement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA).
- Update the school parent involvement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school, distribute it to the parents of participating children, and make the parental involvement policy available to the local community.
- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, 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, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b)(2) of the ESEA is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.
- 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) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- (C) 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
- (D) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA

DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOLWIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Utopian Academy for the Arts will take the following actions to involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by parents, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

Utopian Academy stakeholders play an integral part in its growth and development. The stakeholders are the staff, school administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, parents, and others to assess and prioritize the needs of the school. UAFA has an active PTSA/PTO whom serves as the Parent Advisory Council members. Invitations to all meetings are placed on the school website, flyers are sent to parents, text message reminders, and weekly newsletters. Parent Advisory Council meetings are held in the morning and late evening to accommodate all parents. Sign in sheets and agendas are maintained by the Title I Coordinator. Documentation of the meetings and input, sign-in-sheets, agendas, and surveys are maintained of file in the Title I office. Utopian Academy for the Arts will utilize parental surveys, student performance and volunteer logs to assess the effectiveness of parental involvement. Surveys will be made available online as well as hard copies will sent home with students. Surveys will be available in multiple languages if necessary, to assure that all parents have access to the survey in a format that they can understand.



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ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Utopian Academy for the Arts will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents' requirements, the school parental involvement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

Utopian Academy for the Arts will hold its Annual Title I Meeting no later than November 1st of each school year.

COMMUNICATIONS

Utopian Academy for the Arts will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children the following:

- Timely information about the Title I programs
- Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement.
- Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

The School Parent Compact will be distributed to parents during the Annual Title I Meeting, copies will also be available in the Eagles Nest (parent resource area), copies will also be sent home with students and copies will be available during additional schoolwide events.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Utopian Academy for the Arts will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.



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In late July, the administrative team, staff, parents and stakeholders are invited to participate in the review and the revision of the Parent Compact and Parent Involvement Plan.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

Utopian Academy for the Arts will take the following actions to 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 by:

Utopian Academy for the Arts is not required to have a Parental Involvement Set Aside. Title I, A funds will be used for parental involvement activities. During the Annual Title I Meeting, the entire Title I Budget is reviewed for feedback from stakeholders.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Utopian Academy for the Arts will to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

Utopian Academy has an active collaboration with Toys for Tots, the Ludacris Foundation, Clayton State University, Pinewood Studios, and Publix Partners for Education, and Box Tops for Education, Chick-fila, and Six Flags Read to Succeed, Atlanta Metro Studios, Atlanta Braves Education Incentives, Atlanta Hawks Reading Incentives, Clayton County PTA, and the Clayton County Sheriff's Department.

Utopian Academy for the Arts has a Parent Resource Center referred to as the "Eagles Nest". The Eagles Nest has four desk top computers with printing access for both student and parent usage. Also housed in the Eagles Nest are workbooks that cover from elementary to middle school content for parents to checkout materials for their student or make copies. Utopian Academy also has a strong partnership with the Clayton County Library System, all students have the opportunity to get a personal library card which provides access to several free internet based resources such as ABC Mouse, Brain Fuse, Mango, etc.



BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Utopian Academy for the Arts will build the parents' capacity for strong parental involvement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

- Providing parents with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
- Materials and training to help parents to work with their child to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement
- Providing assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 - The State's academic content standards.
 - The State's student academic achievement standards.
 - The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments.
 - The requirements of Title I, Part A.
 - How to monitor their child's progress.
 - How to work with educators.

Utopian Academy for the Arts Handbook states that parents are to volunteer at minimum 12 hours per school year. Parents are given several opportunities to gain these hours and are given credit for participation in schoolwide activities. In addition, parents are view as partners in educations and therefore; Utopian Academy provide flexible opportunities for allowing parents to complete their volunteer hours.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Utopian Academy for the Arts will provide training to educate the teachers, pupil services personnel, principal, and other staff in how to reach out to, communicate, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and the school by:



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Utopian Academy for the Arts will build the school' and parents' 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, through the following activities:

The school district, with the assistance of Title I, will educate its teachers, school system staff, the principal and other staff in how to communicate with parents as equal partners, in the usefulness of contributions of parents, and how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build relationships between parents and school through activities including, but not limited to, the following:

- *Orientations will be conducted during pre-planning by system level staff;*
- *Participation in professional learning opportunities at the local and state level which focus on parental involvement, diversity, and communication skills;*
- *When possible, send staff and parents together for training in parental involvement, diversity, and communication skills;*
- *Collaboration with local and state agencies that provide programs for parents and families.*

Utopian Academy for the Arts will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Section 1118 as parents may request by:

Utopian Academy for the Arts offer the following activities and resources to support parental involvement:

Parent Café (in conjunction with PTSA)

Parent Teacher Student Association

Eagles Nest (resource room with workbooks and other academic materials that can be checked out or copied for student enrichment/remediation)

Weekly Teacher Office Hours- for appointments and tutorial

Saturday School

Various Academic Nights- Curriculum, Math, Reading, Milestones

Parental Involvement Luncheons

Flexible Opportunities for Infinite Campus Training (upon request)