



Odyssey Charter School District

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

What is Family Engagement?

Family Engagement means the participation of parents and family members in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- (B) That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- (C) That 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) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Odyssey Charter School has jointly developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I school. This plan will describe Odyssey's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in its Title I school to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals.

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and enjoy school more. Title I, Part A provides for substantive family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of ESSA contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children's education. Odyssey will work with its Title I school to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of federal law and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116 of the ESSA.



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In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, Odyssey will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESSA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, Odyssey will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the state Department of Education.

Jointly Developed

Odyssey will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its district plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESSA:

All parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the 2023-2024 school year. The district sent an email to all parents informing them about this meeting and posted an announcement on the district website. During this meeting, parents also reviewed and discussed the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). Additionally, each Title I school used its Parent Advisory Council to review the district parent and family engagement policy before the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement policy was incorporated into the CLIP which was submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time on the school district website or by submitting written comments to your child's school. All feedback received by May 2023 was considered for revisions to this policy.

The district's plan to distribute this policy is to post it on district and school websites and in parent resource centers, disseminate it during the annual Title I school meetings in the fall, and email the link to all parents in a format and language they can understand.

Technical Assistance

Odyssey will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members



in education:

The Family Engagement Coordinator (FEC) will provide assistance and support to all Title I Schools to ensure family engagement requirements are satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district and the FEC to help improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and periodic school visits, the FEC will hold quarterly meetings and trainings with its Title I school's principal to review family engagement plans and activities.

Odyssey has a designated Family Engagement Coordinator. The principal and school level FEC provide resources and professional learning to staff. Schools also offer training sessions for parents and families to help support their child at home.

Reservation of Funds

Odyssey will reserve 1% from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY24 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this plan and as described in federal law. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

Odyssey will survey parents to get input on how the family engagement funds will be used during the upcoming year. Stakeholder input meetings will be held at schools during the spring for parents and families to provide suggestions and input about how to better meet the needs of students and families in our community. Stakeholder input from these meetings will be reviewed to determine areas of need and parental engagement budget changes.

Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation

Odyssey will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful engagement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities. The evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers, and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to develop strategies for effective parental engagement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

Input and suggestions from parents, family members, and community partners are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. All



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parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals through an online survey. The survey contains questions related to opportunities currently available to families and school staff. Parents are able to provide suggestions that may better meet their family's needs. Stakeholders provide feedback about the 1% budget, professional learning, and strategies for meeting the student achievement goals. Surveys are posted on the district and school's website.

Odyssey sends home a survey and/or provides a link to the survey for parents to give valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. The survey is posted on the district and school website for parent to complete. Paper copies are available for completion as well. The school compiles their survey results to determine strengths and opportunities for growth at the school.

State of the District Meeting ~ September 2023

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from Odyssey Charter School as well as review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement policy and the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan for the 2023-2024 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be emailed to all parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school district website.

School Improvement Forums ~ May 2024

Odyssey will host a forum for parents and family members to participate in roundtable discussions to review the schoolwide plan, the school's parent and family engagement policies as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and topics for school staff training. Odyssey will send invitations home as well as email and text parents to notify them about the date and time of the forum. Information regarding the School Improvement Forum will also be made available on the school websites.

Input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual survey. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget and school staff training for parents to provide their comments.

Coordination of Services

Odyssey will coordinate and integrate the district's family engagement programs under this part with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs such as, the local preschool program and other federal and state funded preschool programs in the district. The district will invite faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on family engagement activities. In the spring, schools will host Kindergarten Transition Open House and High School Transition Nights so parents may receive information to help prepare them and their children for the next life stage.



Building Capacity

Odyssey will build partnerships between its Title I Schools, families, and community with the goal of developing mutual support for student achievement. To develop the capacity for this support, Odyssey will implement a variety of family and community engagement initiatives. The Academic Parent-Teacher Team (APTT) model of family engagement is one such initiative. Training and support of APTT was provided for through the Georgia Department of Education. APTT is a program wherein teachers and families partner to address academic goals through at-home learning activities.

Of Parents

- Odyssey will provide families with information about the overall Title I program and its requirements.
- Odyssey helps families understand academic expectations for student learning and progress. Specific information related to APTT, the State's challenging academic standards, and local and state assessments—including alternative assessments, will also be provided.
- Odyssey also offers assistance to parents in understanding use of its online student information system and other digital resources, including the harms of copyright piracy, through its technology specialists. Notifications about these opportunities will be posted on the district website and shared through school messaging systems, newsletters, and social media postings.
- In addition, Odyssey's website contains resources and materials such as parent guides, study guides, practice assessments, and APTT materials for at-home learning. Hard copies of these materials are also available at all Title I schools, including copies in Spanish.
- Odyssey's Parent Advisory Council, made up of parent representatives advises the district on all matters related to family engagement. Community leaders and business partners are also invited to serve on the council. The participation of all our partners is encouraged through video conferencing and recording options to accommodate varying schedules.
- In the Spring, Kindergarten readiness meetings are held to provide parents with information to help prepare them and their children for kindergarten. Odyssey will hold high school transition meeting for the eighth graders preparing to go to high school. College and Career Fairs are held to provide families with information to help prepare their children for the next stage in life.
- Odyssey will ensure that information, resources, materials and school reports are provided to parents to help work with their children at home. Copies will be available at the school in an understandable and uniform format; including alternative formats upon



request, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand. A Google translation application and/or translator may be used to review the document.

Of School Staff

- Odyssey will conduct four meetings during the school year for principal and school's FEC to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. These trainings will be redelivered to the faculty and staff.
- Odyssey Family Engagement Leadership Team (FELT) will conduct an APTT training for the entire school staff. The purpose of the FELT is to coordinate the sustainability and growth of APTT in the district. Odyssey will also host a training for appropriate school staff and faculty that will focus on creating welcoming environments.
- To ensure that information related to district, school, parent programs, APTT meetings, and activities is available to all parents, each Title I school is required to send home and post online information for parents and family members in an understandable language and uniform format.
- At the beginning of the year, school staff will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents' preferred language, where applicable, and providing interpreters at parent events and APTT meetings. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school phone call systems, district and school websites, local news media, and social media to post information for parents.

Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, the OCS will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey and the School Improvement Forums.

Beginning in April, Odyssey will send home a survey and email a link to the survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the district website for parents to complete. In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will also use the School Improvement Forum to facilitate group discussions to discuss the needs parents of children eligible to receive Title I services to design strategies for more effective family engagement.

Odyssey will use the findings from the school forums and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement policies.



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Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district family engagement coordinator will communicate and collaborate with the Office for Student Support Services to ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children including providing information and school reports in a language parents can understand.

Mark Your Calendars

For Parents

Annual Parent Survey - April 2024

School Improvement Forum - May 2024

State of District - September 2023

For Schools

Welcoming School Training - April 1, 2023

Principial and FEC Meetings - July 2023, October 2023, January 2024, April 2024

Adoption

This districtwide parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel at the annual State of the District meeting.

This policy was adopted by the Odyssey Charter School District on June 2023 and will be in effect for the 2023-2024 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children before or during the first week of fall semester.