**Keystone Academy Charter School**

**Title I School Level- Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

Keystone Academy Charter School ("KACS") is dedicated to the philosophy that parent involvement is integral to the success of each student, and that forging a strong partnership between KACS and the home is essential in order to provide a quality education to all students.

Therefore, KACS will implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in accordance with Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). This federal statute defines "parental involvement" as the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication, in a language that family members can understand, involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

* that parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;
* that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;
* 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;
* the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA; and
* positive decisions relating to the education of their children and use of extracurricular time.

With input from parents, as evidenced by meetings with parents and parent surveys, Keystone Academy Charter School has developed this Title I School Level- Parent and Family Engagement Policy. This policy will be posted on KACS' website for accessibility to parents and members of the community, will be distributed at the annual Title I meeting and will be placed in the Parent Resource Center and the Student-Parent Handbook.

**School Responsibilities**

In order to involve parents in the Title I Program, KACS will:

* Convene an annual Title I meeting to inform parents of KACS' participation in the Title I Program, the Program’s requirements and parents' involvement and rights.
* Hold parent meetings at various times throughout the school year in order to familiarize parents with KACS' Title I Program. In addition, conferences with the Principal and teachers may be scheduled as needed in order to facilitate open communication.
* Involve parents in an organized, ongoing and timely way, in the planning, review and improvement of the Title I Program, Parent Compact, and Family Engagement Policy.
* Our School will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate, and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs including public preschool programs and conduct other activities, that encourage and support parents and family members in more fully participating in the education of their children.
* Provide parents with a description and explanation of KACS' curriculum, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels that students are expected to meet, in a language that family members can understand.
* Communicate with parents through fliers, calendars, student folders, website postings, letters/notices, and electronic means.
* Provide parents with timely information about the Title I Program.
* Provide assistance to parents in understanding the State's academic content standards and student achievement standards, academic assessments, and how to monitor a child's progress, with encouragement to work with teachers to improve the achievement of their children.
* Provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their academic achievement and, as appropriate, to foster parent involvement.
* Disseminate to parents data regarding their child's achievement, progress reports, and classroom and standardized assessment results, to enable parents to know of, and to remain actively engaged in their child's educational progress.

* Provide, if requested by parents, opportunities for additional meetings for solicitation of suggestions from parents and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child. KACS will respond to any such suggestions as soon as practically possible.
* Provide a written agreement (School-Parent Compact) explaining the roles of parent, student and staff to be signed by all parties responsible for academic achievement in an effort to improve his/her skill levels as a student enters the Title I Pull-out Program.
* Provide a high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables students to meet State academic standards.
* Inform parents that their children will be taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified, should the need arise.
* Employ highly qualified teachers who will be provided with professional development and will continually update resources and maintain an environment that facilitates learning.
* With regard to professional development, provide training to school staff to strengthen parental involvement efforts relating to:
  + The value and utility of contributions of parents
* How to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners
* Implementing and coordinating parent programs
* Building ties between parents and KACS
* Ensure full opportunities for participation of all parents, regardless of whether they or their children have disabilities, migratory status, or limited English proficiency, by providing information about KACS' Title I Program and other programs, school meetings and associated activities to all participating families in an understandable and uniform format and language that parents can understand.

**Parent Involvement**

* Parents will be involved in the planning, review and improvement of KACS' Title I Program and the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, through feedback, suggestions, the Annual Title I Parent Meeting, additional parent meetings and parent-teacher conferences.
* Parent representatives will serve on a committee to review, develop, and update the Title I policies, Schoolwide Improvement Plan, forms, and the Title I Program.
* A Title I Parent Survey will be conducted annually to evaluate the effectiveness of the Title I Program, and to assess levels of parent involvement and barriers. The evaluation findings will serve as the basis for planning and the improvement of the Program.
* Marking period progress reports and Title I trimester progress reports will allow parents to monitor their child's progress and take steps to improve individual academic achievement level as needed.
* Parent Partnership meetings provide recommendations, materials, and training to help parents work with their child to improve academic achievement and to help parents better understand the State’s academic standards and results of local assessments.
* Parents with up to date clearances on file at school, will have opportunities to visit the school or to volunteer (and become involved in their child’s educational enrichment or learning activity): field trips, Annual Musical, Winter Concert, School Store, Awards Assembly, Science Fair, Earth Day, Field Day, and KAPA (Keystone Academy Parent Association) functions (trunk or treat, movie night, father/daughter dance, mother/son dance, fall festival, BINGOs).
* KACS will provide programs or activities throughout the year to encourage parents to become active participants in increasing student achievement and learning such as Back to School Night, Parent Partnership Meetings, Kindergarten Readiness Workshops, High School Readiness Meeting, and Parent-Teacher Conferences.

**School-Parent Compact**

Incorporated as a component of the Title I Parental Involvement Policy, KACS distributes to parents of participating children the attached School-Parent Compact. The Compact, which has been jointly developed with parents, outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. It describes specific ways that KACS and families will partner to help children achieve the State's high academic standards. It addresses not only items suggested by parents of Title I students, but also the following legally required items:

* The ways parents will be responsible for supporting their child's learning.
* The importance of ongoing communication between parents and teachers through, at a minimum, annual parent-teacher conferences; frequent reports on student progress; access to staff; opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate in their children's class; and opportunities to observe classroom activities.

The School Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by parent and staff meetings and Parent Surveys.

This policy was adopted by Keystone Academy Charter School in June 2024. This policy will be placed on the school website so that all parents of participating Title I, Part A children have access to it.