

SCINTILLA CHARTER ACADEMY

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

2023-2024

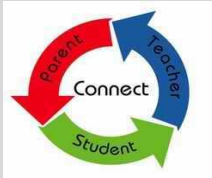
FINAL - August 17th, 2023

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What is Title I?



In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Scintilla Charter Academy (SCA) has developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the school's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships at SCA, a Title I school. This plan will describe SCA's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the 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 school plan, and in carrying out the school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (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. Consistent with Section 1116, SCA will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.

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What is Parent and Family Engagement?

Parent and 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 ESSA.



Helping with homework is an important way to be involved.

This plan further describes the different ways that SCA will support parent and family engagement and how parents can help plan and participate in activities and events to support scholars learning at home and at school.

MORE.....

How is it developed?

- Parent and family surveys-online and through paper copies by request
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Input from families

Who is it for?

All scholars participating in the Title I, Part A program, and their families are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. Scintilla will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents with limited English, parents with disabilities and parents of migratory children.

Where is it?

You can receive a copy of this plan...

- In the front office
- On the school website
- A paper copy by request

"At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents" – Jane D. Hull

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Parent and Family Engagement

Scintilla Charter Academy believes that parent and family engagement is the participation of parents in school activities. It is the commitment of time, energy, and good will to promote success for our scholars. We also believe:

- That parents and families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- That parents and families should be welcomed and encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.
- That parents and families 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.

Parent and Family Engagement Input

Calling all Families! Your input is valued and appreciated! We are always interested in hearing your ideas and suggestions on building partnerships with school, families, and community. Input can always be provided by contacting SCA's Directors of Engagement.

Keri Wilkin
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Grades K-5
kwilkin@scintillacharteracademy.com

Madeline Jarnagin, Director
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LET'S GET TOGETHER!

Scintilla Charter Academy strives to provide a welcoming, trustful, and engaging environment through parent and family engagement activities and programs that promote scholar academic growth. The following activities will be provided:

- **Open House**

Meet your child's teacher and our friendly and helpful school staff for the year. SCA uses scheduled Open House conferences to provide the opportunity for families to have an individualized/small group session to meet their child's teacher, receive information, and ask questions.

- **Annual Title I Meeting**

We invite you to join us at the Annual Title I meeting to learning more about our Title I program, including our parent and family engagement policy, the school wide plan, the school-parent compacts and parents' requirements. Reminders will be sent home in weekly communication folders, sent by email, and shared through social media.

- **Student-Led Conferences/Celebrations of Learning**

Student-led conferences and Celebrations of Learning will be held multiple times each year. This is an exciting opportunity to allow our scholars to share their learning with parents and family members.

- **Family Universities**

Family Universities will be held during the year to provide an opportunity for parents and families members to ask questions, provide input, and learn more about the components of SCA's innovative school model.

- **Community Circle/Spartan Showcase**

Every Friday, our entire school comes together in the Dining Room for an assembly. Grade levels in K-5 rotate to lead Community Circle and do a short performance. This year, our middle school scholars will have their own opportunity for an assembly which will be called the Spartan Showcase. Check the weekly email blast to see the grade level presenting for the week and feel free to join us in-person or virtually on SCA's YouTube channel!

- **Other Parent and Family Engagement Activities**

SCA offers a variety of parent and family engagement activities throughout the year. At anytime, families can request Please remember to check the weekly email blast for opportunities throughout the year!

*"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader" –
Margaret Fuller*



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Scintilla's Commitment to Staff

Scintilla Charter Academy will provide professional learning opportunities to discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, creating a welcoming environment, and build ties with parents and the community. Trainings may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education. Staff members will be provided strategies to improve communication with parents and ideas to increase parent and family engagement during grade level meetings and faculty meetings. School staff members will receive professional learning on student-led conferences to build staff capacity for partnering with families.

Scintilla's Commitment to Families

Scintilla is committed to promote a positive working relationship between our school and our parents, so together we can promote and achieve higher academic standards for all scholars. We will:

- ✓ Provide a challenging curriculum and effective instruction that enables our students to meet the state's performance standards. Information regarding Georgia Standards of Excellence can be found at (<https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards>) and grade level expectations will be communicated by teachers
- ✓ Inform parents of their child's progress through weekly folders, grade level newsletter, assessment logs, report cards, and the schools websites
- ✓ Promote frequent two-way communication with families through parent/teacher conferences, student-led conferences, newsletters, emails, phone calls, text messages, and parent and family meetings
- ✓ Share information with parents in their language so that ALL parents can understand the school's academic standards and assessments as well as the ways parents can monitor their child's progress (AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST)
- ✓ Commit to work closely with Head Start and other Pre-K programs to insure that our students experience a smooth transition upon entering or exiting our school
- ✓ Provide parents with workshops, brochures, and other relevant information to assist parents when working with their children to improve achievement
- ✓ Use our Directors of Engagement to improve awareness of the activities and events listed in the school parent involvement plan
- ✓ Collect feedback from parents and families throughout the year



Scintilla Charter Academy is committed to helping our families access resources and attend the parent and family engagement activities listed in this plan. Please call or email us if you have any questions. (229)244-5750 or info@scintillacharteracademy.com

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Parent and Family Engagement Standards

Scintilla Charter Academy and our parents have established a PTO and are committed to the following standards:

1. Welcoming All Families
2. Communicating Effectively
3. Supporting Scholar Success
4. Speaking Up for Every Child
5. Sharing Power
6. Collaborating with our Community

School-Parent Compacts

The school-parent compact is an agreement developed jointly by the school, parents and scholars. The compact explains what the teachers and parents agree to do that will help our students reach high academic standards. The compact will be reviewed and revised annually based on feedback from parents, scholars, and teachers.

Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, SCA 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 stakeholder meetings.

Throughout the year, copies of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy are available for review in the front lobby along with stakeholder input forms. In the spring, SCA 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 SCA's website for parents to complete. Paper copies are available by request. In addition to the annual survey, SCA will also use stakeholder meetings 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.

SCA will use the findings from the survey results and stakeholder meetings to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement policies and school improvement plan.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, SCA's Director of Engagements will 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.

shall reserve at least 1 percent of its Title I, Part A allocation, when more than \$500,000, for parent and family engagement and that it will distribute not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent of these funds to schools, with priority given to high- need schools. The Policy must also state that parents and family members of children receiving services under Title I, Part A shall be involved in the decisions regarding how the set-aside is allotted for parental involvement activities. The Policy must further state that family engagement funds will be used to carry out activities and strategies consistent with the Policy, including not less than one of the following: 1) Supporting schools and nonprofit organizations in providing professional development for district and school personnel regarding parent and family engagement strategies, which may be provided jointly to teachers, principals, other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, early childhood educators, and parents and family members. 2) Supporting programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and at school. 3) Disseminating information on best practices focused on parent and family engagement, especially best practices for increasing the engagement of economically disadvantaged parent and family members. 4) Collaborating or providing subgrants to schools to enable such schools to collaborate, with community-based or other organizations or employers with a record of success in improving and increasing parent and family engagement.

This schoolwide 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 and opportunities for input of families and school personnel.

This policy was adopted by Scintilla Charter Academy on (pending review) 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 on or before November 1st, 2023.