



CHARTER PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Somerset Academies of Texas provides quality education to every student in our charter. To accomplish this objective, we will develop partnerships with parents and community members, support a positive relationship between home and school and foster open lines of communication to expand and enhance learning opportunities for all community members.

Grade level learning objectives (skills that students should develop and master) and goals for each grade level will be communicated to all parents at the beginning of each school year. All students will be expected to work toward mastering these objectives throughout the school year. Somerset Academies of Texas will provide students with opportunities at school and through expended learning (before school, after school, and weekend) for interventions and acceleration. These interventions or acceleration strategies are available to all students through the Title I program, and various other educational services offered throughout the charter. Somerset Academies of Texas encourages parent engagement in all aspects of school success and their participation is a priority in Title I programs.

PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN DEVELOPING THE POLICY

Parents, members of the community, and school staff will meet annually to discuss, update and implement the Parent & Family Engagement Policy. Somerset Academies of Texas will actively recruit participation through various means of communication. Parent participation will strive to include a diverse population of members to represent all families, during policy and decision-making meeting. Meetings will be planned at convenient times and locations for all stakeholders. Charter personnel will provide guidance and support to campuses on the development of their plan.

MEETINGS FOR TITLE I PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Somerset Academies of Texas will hold at least two meeting for parents during each school year. During the first meeting at the beginning of the school year, parents will be informed of new Title I guidelines, parent & family engagement opportunities, and charter initiatives. Copies of the Charter's current Parent & Family Engagement Policy will be distributed and/or posted on the campuses webpage. Parents will be encouraged to become actively involved in the annual policy revising and updating process. Volunteers will be recruited for the charter-wide and campus advisory committees. In the spring, a meeting will be held in a charter centered location and open to the public. This meeting will review categorical spending for the charter, campus/district ratings, strategic plan updates, assist with campus/district comprehensive needs assessments/program evaluation for parent & family engagement, and a review and adoption of the District Parent & Family Engagement Policy. All meetings will be held at a convenient time and location, with written notices provided to attract as many parents as possible.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACTS

In accordance with Title I regulations, each school must develop a school-parent compact with the parents of students participating in the program. This compact will enable the school and parents to share responsibility for student performance and success. The compact must explain how students, parents, families and staff will share accountability for student performance and success. The compact must include activities or strategies on how students, parents and staff will share responsibilities for

It is the policy of Somerset Academies of Texas not to discriminate on the bases of age, race, color, national origin, gender, or handicap in its programs, services or activities as required by law, including Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation act of 1973, as amended.



promoting student achievement. Members of the school’s Campus Improvement Team(CIP) will be consulted in the design and implementation of the compact.

All parents will be provided with a copy of the compact, detailing the responsibilities that teachers, parents and students have in assisting students accomplish their goals after the first grading cycle. Student’s responsibilities will vary by grade level and campus. Parent’s/student’s signature will be highly encouraged after reading the compact with their student

TYPES OF PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

The school will support various parent & family engagement activities as it strives to develop and maintain an effective learning environment for all students. Parents will be encouraged to contribute through volunteer programs at school as well as create a supportive home environment. The community may participate through a variety of activities that promote student success. Campuses will support parent/families in building academic and social emotional knowledge to better support students. Some campuses may train parents or have parents train staff on enhancing engagement. A Charter parent advisory team will be utilized to provide feedback to the district for enhancements. Each group will work as a team to develop and maintain parent & family engagement activities best suited to meet the individual needs of their students and campus.

MATCHING PROGRAMS TO THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY

The community will be consulted in the design, development and implementation of the Title I program. Parents and student needs will be assessed through surveys, parental feedback, as well as a variety of research-based models to create a successful parent & family engagement model. Workshops and programs will be designed to meet the unique student and parental needs of the community. Parents will be informed of engagement activities through the school office personnel and various media methods. Somerset Academies of Texas welcomes parental suggestions and continuous communication. Parents and community members may direct suggestions to any school leader, counselor or parent liaison.

STAFF/PARENT COMMUNICATION

Parents will be informed of student’s academic progress and opportunities for extended learning through various means of communication throughout the school year. Newsletters, conferences, personal contacts and written notices or mail outs will be utilized to establish and maintain an open line of communication.

All teachers and office staff will receive annual training on the importance of parent & family engagement as well as effective means to work with parents and community members.

EVALUATION

Parents will be actively involved in the effectiveness of the program and offer suggestions for program improvement. The evaluation procedures will include assessment of the Parent & Family Engagement Policy as well as recommendations for improvement in academic and parent engagement programs