

Charter School Parental Involvement Policy

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International School of Louisiana

2009-2010 School Year

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The International School of Louisiana agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The charter school will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents with children in Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1118, the charter school will ensure that its parental involvement policy meets the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and includes, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- The charter school will incorporate this parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the charter school will provide full opportunities 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 and, 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 ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the charter school will submit any parent comments with the plan when the charter school submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- The charter school will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent.
- The charter school will 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) 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 at school;

(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 1118 of the ESEA.

- The charter school informs parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the:

Louisiana Parental Information and Resource Center
520 Olive Street, Suite C-4
Shreveport, Louisiana 71104

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE CHARTER SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The International School of Louisiana will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - (A) Include parents in all appropriate committees in all schools
 - (B) Solicit input and feedback from community members on the status of the schools
 - (C) Assure that all parents are involved to the fullest extent in their children’s education
2. The International School of Louisiana will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - (A) Include parents in all appropriate committees
 - (B) Hold annual meetings for the purpose of soliciting
3. The International School of Louisiana will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement with other community programs by:
 - (A) Informing parents through school newsletters and website about the availability of other family support programs and activities
 - (B) Whenever possible engage representatives of other organization to make presentations or deliver workshops to ISL parents

4. The International School of Louisiana will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A school. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The charter school will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

(A) An evaluation instrument will be developed and distributed by the school family liaison through home-school communication methods including both paper and electronic delivery. The evaluation instrument will be available in multiple languages as needed by the school community.

(B) Parents will be encouraged to complete the evaluation survey

(C) The policy will be discussed and evaluated at an annual Parent Meeting with the Head of School and Principal.

(D) Evaluation results will be used to inform policy and revise plans as required

6. The International School of Louisiana will build the school's and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

A. Hold an annual meeting to inform parents of the charter school's participation in Title I, Part A programs, and to explain the Title I, Part A requirements, and the right of parents to be involved in Title I, Part A programs. The charter school will convene the meeting at a convenient time to parents, and will offer a flexible number of additional parental involvement meetings, such as in the morning or evening, so that as many parents as possible are able to attend. The charter school will invite to this meeting all parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs (participating students), and will encourage them to attend.

On the request of parents, provide opportunities for regular meetings for parents to formulate suggestions, and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions about the education of their children. The charter school will respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

Provide each parent timely notice when their child has been assigned or has been taught for four (4) or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified within the meaning of the term in section 200.56 of the Title I Final Regulations (67 Fed. Reg. 71710, December 2, 2002).

Provide to parents of participating children information in a timely manner about Title I, Part A programs that includes a description and explanation of the school's curriculum, the forms of academic assessment used to measure children's progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.

Provide to each parent an individual student report about the performance of their child on the State assessment in at least math, language arts and reading.

The charter school will provide assistance to parents in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph -

- 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 Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators:

The district will use the following methods to achieve understanding of the above topics:

- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Parent-Teacher Organization Meetings
- ISL Website
- Parent-Student Handbook
- Monthly newsletter
- Weekly e-mail update
- Community outreach programs
- Home-School Connection folder for classroom communication

B. The charter school will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:

- Providing educational materials for loan from school library
- Providing Literacy and Math presentations and workshops when requested
- Providing community support presentations and workshops when available

C. The charter school will, with the assistance of its parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, 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:

- Developing a volunteer resource book and providing volunteer training as needed
- Supporting the engagement and involvement efforts of the ISL-PTO

- Providing parental involvement professional development opportunities for faculty, administration and staff which educates teachers and staff in the importance of effective communication, value, and utility of contributions of parents
- D. The charter school will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with community 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:
- Informing parents through school newsletters and website about the availability of other family support programs and activities
 - Whenever possible engage representatives of other organization to make presentations or deliver workshops to ISL parents
- E. The charter school will take the following actions to ensure that 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:
- Information sent to parents will be structured in a clear and concise format in a family's preferred language.

PART IV. ADOPTION

This Charter School Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by the previous policy.

This policy was adopted by the International School of Louisiana and will be in effect for the period of 2009-2010. The charter school will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children.

(Signature of Authorized Official)

(Date)