

New Frontiers Charter School Family and Community Engagement Policy  
Title 1 Program  
Early Childhood Academy

New Frontiers Charter School (NFCS) will follow the parent involvement policy guidelines in accordance with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Section 1118. NFCS will distribute and make this Family and Community Engagement Policy readily available to the parents of each student participating in the School-wide Title 1 program and with parent input, update the policy annually.

The Family and Community Engagement Policy will support student achievement and incorporate all level of involvement to include: parenting, communication, volunteering, learning at home, decision making, and collaborating with the community (Epstein, 2006).

- A. NFCS will convene an annual meeting in the fall of each school year in a public setting. The purpose of this meeting will be to share the information in the Annual Report which describes the school improvement plan, its goal statements, the strategies used to meet those goals, and the progress made by our students on state and local assessments. Title 1 data will also be used to share, discuss, and evaluate the school-wide Title 1 Plan including highly qualified teachers/status, which was developed by the staff, parents, and community members.
- B. Title 1 provisions state that parents have the right to be involved in decisions related to their child's education, and the school is required to seek input from parents in a variety of ways. NFCS will meet these requirements by: 1) adding parental representation to school improvement meetings where budget, student assessment data, and instructional strategies are discussed, developed, and or revised, where the expenditure of funds for a variety of programs related to school improvement goals (such as family involvement/academic nights, parent education programs, community outreach efforts, and additional instruction outside the classroom are discussed.; 2) offering individual parent-teacher conferences a minimum of twice yearly at a variety of times allowing flexibility for working parents; 3) collecting parent surveys and evaluation to determine parental satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the academic program, school climate, school improvement plan and other important key issues involving parent-teacher partnerships including homework and communication between home and school.
- C. NFCS will offer a flexible schedule of meetings and conferences to encourage parents' attendance. School improvement meetings will rotate between mornings and afternoons.
- D. Parent input will be sought specifically through parent surveys, parent evaluation feedback sheets, and parent participation in committees and activities for the development and revision of our Family and Community Engagement Policy, our Parent-School Compact, and our School-wide Title 1 Plan.
- E. Parents will be provided, in a timely manner, information in the following ways: Principal's Monthly Newsletter, Monthly Calendar, Principal's Coffee, school website, school messenger system, student and parent handbook, message board

- at the entrance of the building, teacher or administrative initiated conference/meeting as requested, parent-teacher conferences, progress report card, and report card. New Frontiers Charter School will communicate in a language parents can understand.
- F. Parents will be given materials and training on how they can improve their child's achievement. Examples include: curriculum nights, parent-teacher conferences, parent education classes, literacy training, and nutrition and fitness classes.
  - G. The staff at NFCS will continually collaborate on how best to build positive relationships between home and school.
  - H. NFCS has a Family Specialist on campus that provides access to resources to assist parents with locating the appropriate governmental, social service, health, or educational program within the community.
  - I. NFCS has a Parent Compact that was developed jointly by staff and parents. The compact is used annually at parent conferences and signed by the parents, teachers, students, and principal. The compact will be reviewed each year, and the necessary revisions will be made according to suggestions by parents, students, and staff.
  - J. NFCS provides reasonable support for family and community engagement by encouraging parents to volunteer in any capacity. Parents are encouraged to participate in a variety of ways. This allows for a rich partnership with parents, and benefits the students and staff. Volunteer surveys are sent to parents to determine interest and talents. Parents will be offered many avenues for volunteering (before, during, after school, and/or home). They may also choose to participate by attending any activities, meetings, workshops, or joining a NFCS committee. All students and their families are invited to attend academic nights, special events, assemblies, committees, and other meetings held throughout the year.