

Bethel Hill Charter School

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

The vision of Bethel Hill Charter School is to work in partnership with staff, families and community to promote high standards for academics and character.

Title 1 is a federally funded program that is one component of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015. Title 1 is intended to help ensure that all students have the opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and assessments. Our school-wide program is based on effective means of improving student achievement and includes strategies to support family engagement.



A. DEFINITION OF PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

For the purposes of this policy, the term “parent and family engagement” means the participation of parents, guardians, and other family members in regular, two-way and meaningful communication involving student learning and other school activities, including ensuring the following:

1. that parents and family members play a vital role in supporting their child’s learning;
2. that parents and family members are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;
3. that parents are full partners in their child’s education and parents and family members are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on committees to assist in the education of their child; and
4. that the school uses events to support parent and family engagement in the Title I programs.

B. PURPOSE AND OPERATION OF TITLE I PROGRAM

The Title I program is a federally supported program that offers assistance to educationally and economically disadvantaged children to help ensure they receive an equitable, high-quality, well-rounded education and meet the schools challenging academic standards. The Title I program delivers instructional activities and supportive services to eligible students over and above those provided by the regular school program.

C. ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM EVALUATION

Each year, school officials must invite parents to a meeting to explain parental rights, discuss the programs and activities to be provided with Title I funds, and solicit input on the Title I program and this policy. In addition, school officials must provide parents and family members a meaningful opportunity annually to evaluate the content and effectiveness of the Title I

programs and the parent and family engagement policies and plans. Information collected from these proceedings will be used to revise Title I programs and parent and family engagement plans. The annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the beginning of school conferences. Parents will be provided a brochure of Title 1 information and hints for assisting students in attaining their educational goals.

D. PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

The board believes that the involvement of parents and family members in the design and implementation of the Title I program will increase the effectiveness of the program and contribute significantly to the success of the children. The Title I staff and all school personnel shall strive to conduct outreach to parents and family members and involve them in activities throughout the school year.

School leadership shall ensure that this parent and family engagement policy and plan is developed with, agreed upon with and annually distributed to parents and family members of participating students.

In addition, school officials and Title I school personnel shall do the following:

1. Involve parents and family members in the joint development of the Title I program and school support and improvement plan and the process of school review and improvement through membership in the school's PTO.
2. Provide coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities that are designed to improve student academic achievement and school performance such as curriculum nights, parent/teacher conferences, and special programs such as Pirate Day, Colonial Days, Bethel Hill 500, Roman Day, Medieval Fair and grade-level specific field trips and events. The school will offer conferences at convenient times for families that will assist the parents and family members with ways to improve their child's achievement.
3. Coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies in the Title I program to the extent feasible and appropriate with parental engagement strategies established in other federal, state, and local laws and programs.
The school will provide a variety of opportunities for parents and family members to participate in throughout the year including families with disabilities and limited English proficiency. The school will work to keep parents and family members informed of academic content, the North Carolina Accountability Program, local and state assessments, and student performance standards.
4. With the meaningful involvement of parents, conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the school parent and family engagement policy and program in improving the academic quality of the school and assisting students to meet the school's academic standards. This evaluation shall identify the following:

- a. barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by this section (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);
- b. the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers, and;
- c. strategies to support successful school and family interactions.

The school will use these findings to design, evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and revise, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policy.

Parents and family members will be provided the opportunity to be involved in reviewing and evaluating school programs including the school Improvement plan and this policy as required by Section 1114 (b) of the Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Parents, family members, students, teachers and administration will commit to an agreement stating the role that each is to play in a student's achievement.

E. ADOPTION

The Bethel Hill Charter School Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Procedures have been revised jointly with and agreed upon by parents, teachers, teacher assistants, administration, and Board members on May 25, 2020 and will be in effect for the 2020-21 academic year. The school will make these Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Procedures available to all parents and to the community via the school website on or before 8/10/2020.