



Northwest Classical Academy Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan 2023-2024 School Year

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Northwest Classical Academy receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.

Northwest Classical Academy agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- Northwest Classical Academy (hereinafter "NCA"), an LEA authorized by the Georgia State Charter Schools Commission, will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of school parents and family members with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
- NCA will work to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA. The Handbook and the signed acknowledgement form serve as a parent and school compact to serve in partnership together to provide high student academic achievement.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, NCA will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If NCA's plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESSA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, NCA will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the state Department of Education.

- NCA will be governed by the following definition of parental involvement/family engagement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:

Family engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning
- (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education
- (C) 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) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA

DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED LEA PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Northwest Classical Academy will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESSA:

- Notify stakeholders of the Parent and Family Engagement Meeting through various means of communication;
 - Distribute and post the Parent Family Engagement Plan on the school’s website; and
 - Conduct a meeting of selected stakeholders to provide input into the school’s Comprehensive Needs Assessment, Improvement Plan and Parent and Family Engagement Plan.
- In addition, NCA will take the following actions to involve parents and families in the process of school review and improvement required by ESSA:
- Invite and encourage parents and stakeholders to attend the annual Title I Revision Meeting in the spring;
 - Survey parents and families annually at the Title I schools to determine strengths and areas for improvement;
 - Share the school’s Executive Summary of the School Improvement Plan with parents and families at school board meetings, which are open to the public, and through the local school’s website; and
 - Establish and build relationships with businesses in the community by fostering partnership agreements and securing additional resources to support teaching and learning.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Northwest Classical Academy will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with

employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education:

As a SCSC-approved charter, Northwest Classical Academy serves as both a LEA and school. As such, the leadership team has appointed a Federal Programs Coordinator to oversee, coordinate, and implement all activities and requirements related to parent and family engagement. This person will work closely with and provide the necessary support to the leadership team in their respective roles in implementing said requirements.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

Northwest Classical Academy will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful engagement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in 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 evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental engagement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

The annual parent survey will be conducted to evaluate the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy and programming in improving student achievement. Links to the surveys will be emailed to parents and posted on the school's websites for parents to complete. In addition to the annual survey, NCA will also use the Title I Parent/CLIP Stakeholder meetings to gather feedback on the content and effectiveness of the Title I District and Schoolwide plan, Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP), and Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

Northwest Classical Academy will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

The school will not receive a Title I, Part A allocation greater than \$500,000, and is not required to include a description of its Reservation of Funds.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Northwest Classical Academy will coordinate and integrate its parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with the parent and family engagement strategies of other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- Providing school tours for current and prospective families;
- Providing transition meetings for kindergarteners, other new students, and their families; and
- Offering parent and family resources and workshop opportunities.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Northwest Classical Academy will build parents' capacity for strong family engagement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents in understanding the following topics:

- The challenging State academic standards
- The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
- The requirements of Title I, Part A
- How to monitor their child's progress
- How to work with educators

In addition to the aforementioned opportunities, instructional staff will provide assistance to parents and families of children served by the school, as appropriate, in understanding what is a classical education, how to understand and interpret their students' assessment results, and how to access and navigate the parent portal. The school will provide a selection of resources and materials, including parent guides, study guides, and practice assessments, to help parents work with their children at home.

To ensure that information related to school/parent programs, meetings, and activities is available to all parents in an understandable and uniform format, NCA will distribute communication through various means (electronic or paper-based), channels and/or platforms. For example, information about school/parent activities may be emailed, posted to the school's website, or sent home in a letter and/or flier. Where applicable, parent notifications and resources will be sent home in parents' native language, and interpreters will be available at parent/school events and meetings.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Northwest Classical Academy will, with the assistance of its parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and schools by:

Providing a) ongoing staff training on communicating and working with parents and families, and b) instructional and technical support to classroom teachers to effectively utilize and integrate technology (including the online gradebook and messaging system) to communicate effectively with families.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

- Providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, NCA has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training
- Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with family engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions
- Training parents to enhance the engagement of other parents
- Maximize family engagement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school
- Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving family engagement
- Establishing a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to family engagement in Title I, Part A programs
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in family engagement activities

For the FY23 year, Northwest Classical Academy is not implementing any additional building capacity actions.