Local Educational Agency (LEA)/District Level
Parent and Family Engagement Policy
Lake Wales Charter Schools

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Lake Wales Charter Schools (LWCS)** 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. It describes how the LEA will implement several specific parent and family engagement activities, which are incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE).

Lake Wales Charter Schools agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- LWCS will implement programs, activities, and procedures to engage parents and family members in all its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation and input from parents and family members of participating children.
- Consistent with Section 1116, the school district will collaborate with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each includes a school-parent compact as a component.
- In carrying out Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, and 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 is presented in a clear and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESSA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will include any parent comments with the plan when submitting it to the Florida Department of Education.
- The following definition of family engagement will govern the school district and expects that its Title I schools will conduct programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with the 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 at school

- (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 conducted, 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

LWCS 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:

- Parents and families are surveyed at the end of each parent engagement meeting, at the end of each SAC (School Advisory Committee) meeting, and before and after the beginning- and end-of-year evaluation meetings. During the evaluation meeting, the SIP (School Improvement Plan)/Title I, Part A schoolwide plan, Parent and Family Engagement Plan, and the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan are reviewed, and input from parents is solicited.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

LWCS will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the 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:

- District-level components of family engagement are provided through school-level Title I-funded Facilitators. The LEA (Local Education Agency) uses the school parent survey to solicit requests for training, information, and other needs. The LEA also holds school-level administrative meetings to discuss the CNA (Comprehensive Needs Assessment) and SIP (School Improvement Plan) before, during, and after the school year, as well as to monitor progress quarterly and ensure implementation. Ongoing technical assistance is provided directly to the school-level Title I Facilitators through district-level support, along with Title I-funded professional learning conferences, webinars, and memberships that support capacity building for effective parent and family engagement. The LEA also annually reviews the school-level PFEP (Parent & Family Engagement Plan), school-parent compacts, and all Title I parent and family engagement requirements.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

LWCS will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful involvement 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 economically disadvantaged parents who 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 support their children's learning, including engaging with school personnel and teachers, as well as strategies to foster successful school and family interactions. LWCS will use the evaluation findings about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement and, if necessary, revise its parent and family engagement policy.

- The school-level leadership teams, district leadership, and the director of federal programs will conduct an annual evaluation meeting where the following information is reviewed: parent and family engagement survey results, student achievement data, SIP (School Improvement Plan), Title I school-wide plan, and school and district-level PFEPs (Parent & Family Engagement Plan). Parent input is solicited throughout the meeting.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

LWCS 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.

- During the annual evaluation meeting, parents are provided with a copy of the prior year's Parent & Family Engagement Plan (PFEP) and an overview of Title I activities. The Title I Facilitators and School Leadership Team will review the current school year's Title I activities and solicit feedback and input in planning the upcoming school year's activities. Parents review the 1% reservation and are given the opportunity to discuss and provide input on how the reservation will be spent. After consultation with parents, 100% of the reservation is allocated directly to schools for parent involvement. Parents participate in the development of the LEA (Local Education Agency) plan through the development of the Title I, Part A program. Parents participate in the LEA and school-level Parent and Family Engagement Plan and School Improvement Plan. Participation is facilitated through virtual meetings, the distribution of plans, and surveys.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

LWCS will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with strategies of other federal programs, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs: [IDEA, Title I, Part C, Title II, Part A, Title III, Title IV, Part A, and Title IX] that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- The school Title I Facilitator collaborates with both the Title I and ESE departments to increase the participation of ESE parents at Title I meetings and targeted ESE parent workshops/trainings. Title II, Title III, Title IV, Part A, and Title IX funds are coordinated to provide professional development activities for Title I teachers and families that support the School Improvement Plan (SIP) and Title I initiatives.

BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF PARENTS

LWCS will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong family engagement by providing materials and flexible meeting times for training opportunities on topics such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) to help parents work with their children to improve their 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 through the parent portal
- How to collaborate with educators

- The LEA (Local Education Agency) will collaborate with all schools within the LEA to provide information and training to help parents work with their children to improve their students' academic achievement. Lake Wales Charter Schools utilizes multiple systems to facilitate two-way communication with families, leveraging all available technologies, including but not limited to Zoom, Connected Calling System, email, phone (text and apps), and social media. These communication systems enable LWCS to offer comprehensive opportunities to all parents, including those with limited English proficiency and those with disabilities. The Title I Facilitators collaborate with the School Leadership to complete orientations at the beginning of the year. They also host TIPA meetings and test-taking strategy information sessions, and add all information to School Calendars on the websites to keep families updated. In-person meetings are communicated and advertised to families through the school calendar, social media, text, and email. All Zoom meetings are recorded and made available to parents as needed. This enables parents who could not attend to view the session and allows parents to rewatch any sessions they found valuable. Literacy coaches are available to provide literacy support to families. School network managers are available daily to troubleshoot any technical issues, and tutorials are available on how to use the student information system. To ensure meaningful and equitable participation for all families, Lake Wales Charter Schools is committed to providing essential school-related information and communication materials in a language that parents/guardians can understand.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

LWCS will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, other school leaders, and other staff on the value and

utility of contributions of parents and 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:

- At the annual preplanning meeting at the beginning of the school year, teachers are trained in the importance of school and parent programs. The LEA (Local Education Agency) holds quarterly progress monitoring meetings to review parent and family engagement activities and discuss school-based plan changes that are needed based on parent feedback. The Family Engagement Coordinator provides ongoing technical assistance and support to the Parent Liaisons to ensure that activities are evidence-based and meet the needs of parents and families as identified in the Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA). The Title I Facilitators collaborate with the Enrollment Office and the ELL (English Language Learner) Literacy team to identify speakers of other languages and encourage participation by ELL (English Language Learner) families at Title I meetings. Translation needs are identified, and notifications and translation services can be provided if deemed necessary and appropriate. All required communications and messages will be translated to the best of our ability upon request. The Title I Facilitators also collaborate with the ELL (English Language Learner) Team to provide information on services available to ELL (English Language Learner) students and parents through the ConnectED Calling System.

BARRIERS THAT MAY HINDER PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

LWCS identifies the barriers by surveying parents and families after each meeting and the Annual Title I Meetings.

Barriers and strategies identified to reduce the obstacles include

- Lack of time (all subgroups)- Continue to encourage parents to attend the activities through multiple communications and advise parents who cannot participate to view the recorded presentation on all schools' or the LEA's websites. The ConnectED Calling System will be used to send reminders about upcoming events to our families.
- Parents can be overwhelmed with technology (all subgroups). LWCS will continue to encourage all parents to participate in the training offered by schools within the LEA, so they can better understand the tools available to support their students. Teachers also serve as a resource to assist parents in understanding the learning management system and the tools available. School calendars will be utilized for family events.

The Lake Wales Charter Schools Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been jointly developed and agreed upon with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs. The LWCS adopted this policy on 10/19/2026 ***and will take effect during the 2026-2027 school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before*** November 2026

Lori Hicks *Board Chair*