

Vista Grande Parent and Family Engagement Policy | Title 1

Introduction

At Vista Grande, our mission is to **empower the school community to create positive change in an inclusive environment that embodies our shared values of compassion, authenticity and sustainable growth**. To achieve this mission, we have developed a comprehensive strategic plan that outlines our family engagement goals, objectives, and action steps for the upcoming year.

We recognize that a strong partnership between the school, families, and community is critical to student success. To build and maintain this partnership, Vista Grande is focused on improving communication and collaboration between school and home, providing opportunities for family involvement, and fostering community partnerships.

The following policy, aligned with the strategies and goals found within our [Strategic Plan](#), serves as a roadmap to achieve these goals and creates transparency around our approach among our families.

PART I

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

1. Vista Grande Charter School (VGCS) will take the following actions to involve parents, guardians and family members (hereafter referred to as “family”) in the joint development of its LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy.
 - Annual review of Parent and Family Engagement Policy by Vista Grande families.
 - Bi-annual Family Feedback Nights
 - Family training sessions on accessing and interpreting grades and assignments
 - Family Policy Feedback Survey
 - Focus groups with families to provide input and reflections on engagement strategies and policies

- Design and share tools that families can leverage to support their children academically
 - Offer opportunities for families to volunteer at school and school events
 - Create meaningful roles and power structures for students and families to shape change
 - Design meaningful engagement with families that support positive student outcomes, reduced absenteeism, improved academic outcomes, and a positive school climate
 - Build trust among students, staff and families
2. Vista Grande Charter School will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist and build the capacity of planning and implementing effective family engagement activities in order to improve student academic achievement and school performance. This may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging families in education:

On-Campus

- Recruit a diversity of local experts, businesses, volunteers, and parents/guardians to provide community enrichment activities, electives, clubs, internships, afterschool and weekend activities for students and/or families.
- Host events that incorporate local cultural celebrations and traditions in authentic ways with the larger community, when appropriate.
- Quarterly events (Open House, COL, passages) to include community partners old and new
- Provide a list of inclusive engagement options that represent more diverse perspectives/organizations
- Continually recruit Leadership Team members, including family members, from diverse populations to ensure perspectives are representative of student body of the school and Yazzie Martinez protected populations

Off-Campus

- Time/ Opportunity for community immersion activities
- Grow connections to existing community services. Examples include Educational Support and Career Skill Training, Health services, counseling and substance support, job training
- Visits to cultural events in the area
- Radio, PSA, Robocall, social media, announcements, call for volunteers
- Student attendance at cultural events at Taos Pueblo, such as San Geronimo Feast Day

- Establish a multimedia Story Corp-style project integrated into the year-long ethnic studies course as the curriculum is revised. Community stories, artifacts, and other assets can be collected, archived, and used appropriately
- Send a community-facing copy of the VGCS newsletter showcasing parents, guardians, and family members’ engagement and community enrichment programs to encourage more participation

3. Vista Grande Charter School will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with other State and federal programs:

State of New Mexico sources funding family programming:

- Innovation Zone Grant
- Public Education Department General Operations including Special Education
- Indian Education Department Grant
- Community Schools Grant

Local collaboration supporting family programming:

- Taos Land Trust - Vista Gardens
- Taos Pueblo Education Center
- Taos Pueblo Indian Health Services
- Agriculture Implementation Research & Education (A.I.R.E)

As a very small school, at VGCS the Community Leadership Team also serves as the Equity Council and Parent Advisory body (hereafter referred to as “Leadership Team”) to maximize alignment without duplicating effort and ensure efficiency for members participating.

4. Vista Grande Charter School will take the following actions to conduct, with families, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy in improving the quality of the school. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by family members in family engagement activities (with particular attention to families who are economically disadvantaged; are disabled; have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background).

- Vista Grande Charter School will use the findings of the evaluation of its Parent and Family Engagement Policy to provide activities and strategies for more effective

engagement of families and how to support successful school and parent/guardian interactions.

- Evaluations will occur through a fall and spring survey of parents/guardians; a bi-annual focus group with family members; and regular feedback collection during school events and activities.
- Families will also have the opportunity to inform and interact with school planning through the annual PanoramaEd survey, Student Led Conferences, and through participation in bi-annual Family Feedback nights as well as those family members serving on the Vista Grande Leadership Team, which includes our Parent Advisory Council and the school Equity Council.

5. Vista Grande Charter School will use the evaluation findings (used in the previous paragraph) to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement and to revise, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policies. The following goals will support our evaluation of success:

80% of VGHS families will attend VGCS community events (e.g. Student Led Conferences, Family Orientation, Celebration of Learning, etc.).

Families will report greater connection to school

- 70% response rate from internal surveys and Panorama Ed (panoramaed.com) to determine baseline data for later comparison.
- Yearly positive trending increase from baseline in key indicators or family/guardian connection to school.
- 50% of VGCS families will report being aware of what is happening at the school
- Annual school calendar, updated at least quarterly, on VGCS website that includes community and school activities.
- Bi-annual newsletters to families and community partners each semester (Fall and Spring) highlighting changes, successes, opportunities and upcoming events.

6. Vista Grande Charter School will involve family members in the activities of the schools served, engaging with a sufficient number of parents and family members who represent the needs of the population served by Vista Grande Charter School for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing parent and family engagement policy.

- Leadership Team review of engagement policy and progress toward the strategies and goals as outlined in the VGCS Strategic Plan as needed
- Bi-annual feedback on the policy, evaluation, and measures at Family Feedback Nights as appropriate.

PART II

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Vista Grande Charter School will be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental and family engagement means the participation of parents, guardians and family members (families) in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, to ensure that:

- A. families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- B. parents and family members are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- C. families 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(a) of the ESSA.

Vista Grande Charter School agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- Vista Grande Charter School will implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of families with Title I Part A programs, consistent with Section 1116(a) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with family members of participating children.
- Consistent with Section 1116(a), Vista Grande Charter School will ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(a) of the ESSA, and includes, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(a) of the ESSA.
- Vista Grande Charter School will incorporate this Parent and Family Engagement Policy into its Strategic Plan.
- In carrying out the Title I Part A parent and family engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, Vista Grande Charter School will provide full opportunities for the participation of legal guardians and family members with limited English proficiency, legal guardians and family members of Native American students, legal guardians and family members with disabilities, and legal guardians and family members of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1116(a) of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language legal guardians and family members understand.
- If Vista Grande Charter School policy is not satisfactory to the parents and family members of participating children, Vista Grande Charter School will submit any

comments with the plan when Vista Grande Charter School submits the plan to the State Department of Education.

- Title I, Part A (Title I) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESEA) provides financial assistance to local educational agencies for children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards. If discretionary funds allow, families can have input into the use of those funds through family interest surveys, at the Leadership Team meetings and by attending Governing Board meetings where this is an agenda item.

PART III

DISCRETIONARY LEA PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

Vista Grande Charter School may include additional, discretionary activities in consultation with its parents and family members to build parents and family members capacity for engagement in the school. These strategies may include some of the following activities listed under Section 1116(a) of the ESSA:

- soliciting family input on training topics for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
- providing necessary literacy training for parents and family members from Title I Part A funds, if Vista Grande Charter School has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
- training parents and family members to extend the involvement of other parents and family members;
- 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 and family members who are unable to attend those conferences at school;
- adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parent and family engagement;
- Leveraging family member participation on the Vista Grande Leadership Team to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I Part A programs;
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including Taos Pueblo and faith-based organizations, in parent and family engagement activities; and
- providing other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under (Section 1116 as parents and family members may request.)

PART IV

ADOPTION

The Vista Grande Charter School Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be continuously refined and reviewed by parents and family members of children participating in Title I Part A programs, as evidenced by:

- Annual review of our policy by the Leadership Team
- Sharing of the policy with parents, alongside a survey tool for feedback

This policy was adopted by Vista Grande Charter School on **ADD DATE** and will be in effect for the period of one calendar year. Vista Grande Charter School will distribute this policy to all parents and family members of participating Title I Part A children on or before **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**.



Signature of Authorized Official

Director _____
Title

05/14/24 _____
(Date)