

# Furlow Charter School District Parent and Family Engagement Policy

## What is Family Engagement?

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

- (A) That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- (B) That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- (C) That 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) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).



## About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Furlow Charter School & District (FCS) has developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe FCS's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals.

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and enjoy school more. Title I, Part A provides for substantive family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of ESSA contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children's education. FCS will work to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of federal law and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact.

## Jointly Developed

All parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the 2022-2023 school year. The district solicited family input through multiple survey opportunities and committee meetings during the year.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement policy will be incorporated into the CLIP which was submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time on the school district website or by submitting written comments to their child's school. All feedback received by April 2023 will be considered for revisions to this policy.

The district's plan to distribute this policy is to post it on FCS's website, Facebook page, and in parent resource centers, disseminate it during the annual Title I school meetings in the fall, and email the link to all parents in a format and language they can understand.

## Communications

FCS will communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding school wide events and activities, through phone and text messages, emails, social media, school newsletters, and flyers. The district and school will share information in English and other languages to the extent possible through written communications, meetings, conferences, and family engagement events in order for families to understand the school's academic standards and assessments as well as ways parents can monitor their child's progress.

## Strengthening Our School

This year, the district family engagement coordinator (FEC) will provide technical assistance and support to Furlow to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Furlow will receive notifications and resources from the FEC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement.

## Reservation of Funds

Furlow Charter School will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in 2022-2023 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in federal law. Furlow will have clear guidance and communication in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses its needs assessment and parent recommendations.



# Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents, family members, and community partners are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to attend two meeting opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.

## **Annual Title I Meeting ~ September 2022**

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Furlow Charter School District as well as review the requirements for Title 1. Notices regarding this meeting will be emailed to all parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school district website.

## **Title I Parent Input ~ February 2023**

Furlow will host a forum for parents and family members to participate in discussions to review the schoolwide plan, the school's parent and family engagement policies as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and topics for school staff training. Furlow will send invitations home as well as email and text parents to notify them about the date and time of the forum. Information regarding the School Improvement Forum will also be made available on the school website.

Input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual district survey. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget and school staff training for parents to provide their comments.

**Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit [www.furlowcharter.org](http://www.furlowcharter.org) to review the meeting documents and minutes.**



## **School-Parent Compacts**

As part of this plan, all Title I schools, along with our families will jointly develop school-parent compacts in order to build and develop a partnership to help our students the challenging state academic standards. These compacts serve as agreements that parents, teachers, and students will work together to make sure all students reach grade level standards by following and accomplishing goals set forth by parents, teachers, and students. The compacts will be revised annually, distributed to all families, and reviewed at parent/teacher conferences.

## Building Capacity

FCS will build partnerships between its families and community with the goal of developing mutual support for student achievement. To develop capacity for this support, FCS will implement a variety of family and community engagement initiatives.

**Of Parents** - FCS will provide families with information about the overall Title I program and its requirements. The school will help families understand academic expectations for student learning and progress. Specific information related to the State's challenging academic standards, and local and state assessments—including alternative assessments, will also be provided. The district also offers assistance to parents in understanding use of its online student information system and other digital resources, including the harms of copyright piracy, through its technology specialists. Notifications about these opportunities will be posted on the district website and shared through school messaging systems, newsletters, and social media postings.

In addition, the school's website will contain resources and materials such as parent guides, study guides, practice assessments, and materials for at-home learning. Hard copies of these materials are also available at the school, including copies in Spanish.

Furlow Charter School's Parent Advisory Council, made up of parent representatives from the school, advises the school on all matters related to family engagement. Community leaders and business partners are also invited to serve on the council. The participation of all our partners is encouraged through video conferencing and recording options to accommodate varying schedules.

Furlow Charter will coordinate and integrate the district's family engagement programs under this part with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs such as, the local preschool program and other federal and state funded preschool programs in the district. The district will invite faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on family engagement activities. In the spring, schools will host Kindergarten Ready days, Middle and High School Transition Nights, and College and Career Fair so parents may receive information to help prepare them and their children for the next life stage.

**Of School Staff** - Furlow will conduct two trainings during the school year for principals and school staff to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community.

To ensure that information related to school, parent programs, and activities is available to all parents, each Title I school is required to send home and post online information for parents and family members in an understandable language and uniform format. At the beginning of the year, school staff will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents' preferred language, where applicable, and providing interpreters at parent events and meetings. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. Furlow will also utilize school phone call systems, school websites, local news media, and social media to post information for parents.

# Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, Furlow will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey and the School Improvement Forums.

Beginning in April, each Title I school will send home a survey and email a link to the survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the district and school website for parents to complete.

In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will also use the School Improvement Forum to facilitate group discussions to discuss the needs parents of children eligible to receive Title I services to design strategies for more effective family engagement.

Furlow will use the findings from the school forums and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement policies.

## Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the Director of Student Services will ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children including providing information and school reports in a language parents can understand.

## Mark Your Calendars

### *For Parents*

Annual Title I Meeting  
Sept. 2022

Title I Input Meeting  
Feb. 2023

More information to come!

## Adoption

This districtwide parent and family engagement policy will be developed jointly and agreed upon with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel at the annual State of the District meeting.

This policy was adopted by the Furlow Charter School District on June 14, 2022, and will be in effect for the 2022-2023 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children before or during the first week of fall semester.





**School-Parent Compact**  
***Furlow Charter School***  
***School Year 2022 - 2023***

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Furlow Charter School students participating in the Title I, Part A program, and their families, agree that this compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement as well as describes how the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the State's high standards.

**JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

*Parents are welcome at all Furlow Charter School every day. During Open House and parent conferences, parent input is gained through open communication and conversation. Additionally, Title I parent meetings are held during the year. Parents are encouraged to review the compact and make suggestions based on student needs and school improvement goals. Parents are also encouraged to participate in the annual title I parent survey that is used to collect parent feedback regarding the current title I programs and policies. All of this input is utilized to jointly develop the School-Parent Compact.*

To understand how working together can benefit your child, it is first important to understand the district's and school's goals for student academic achievement.

**Furlow Charter School's GOALS:**

We will work to increase our graduation rate by 3%.

We will demonstrate increased meaningful academic growth on Milestones, MAP and other grade-level evaluation instruments by 3%.

We will increase stakeholder buy-in by implementing effective communication procedures.

To help your child meet the district and school goals, the school, you, and your child will work together to:

***SCHOOL/TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES:***

Furlow Charter School will:

- 1. Provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment.*
- 2. Hold parent-teacher conferences to discuss the individual child's achievement.*
- 3. Provide parents with frequent reports on their child's progress.*

**PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

We, as parents, will:

1. *Ensure my scholar is at school every day, unless sick, and is on time.*
2. *Provide at least 1 hour of quiet study time at home and to encourage good study habits.*
3. *Communicate and work with advisors to support my scholar’s learning.*
4. *Stay informed about my scholar’s education by reading all notices from the school.*

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. *Commit 1 hour each day to completion of homework, assignments, and/or reading.*
2. *Share what I’ve learned at school daily with my parents.*
3. *Ask advisors questions when I do not understand something.*
4. *Read for at least 10 minutes each school night.*

**COMMUNICATION ABOUT STUDENT LEARNING:**

Furlow is committed to frequent two-way communication with families about children’s learning. Some of the ways you can expect us to reach you are:

- *School and class newsletters to parents*
- *Infinite Campus Parent Portal*
- *Furlow’s website (furlowcharter.org)*
- *Furlow’s Facebook Group*
- *Teacher websites*
- *Parent-Teacher conferences*
- *Weekly folders*
- *Emails to parents on student’s progress*
- *Text messaging and Phone calls*

**ACTIVITIES TO BUILD PARTNERSHIPS:**

Furlow offers ongoing events and programs to build partnerships with families.

- *Parent-Teacher Conferences*
- *Parent Workshops*
- *Curriculum Nights*
- *Parent Resource Center*
- *Volunteering / Observing*
- *Open House*

**Please sign and date below to acknowledge that you have read, received, and agree to this School-Parent Compact. Once signed, please return the form to your child’s teacher. We look forward to our school-parent partnership!**

School Representative Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_