Title I, Parent Involvement Policy

Policy to be distributed to parents of **all** students at the Eel River Charter School (ERCS)

ERCS' Mission: <u>Working with families in community through holistic teaching to develop educated, responsible, compassionate people.</u>

The Eel River Charter School believes that parents/guardians are their children's most influential teachers, and that sustained parent involvement in education contributes greatly to student achievement.

1) **How ERCS will involve parents in joint development of the LCAP (the Local Control and Accountability Plan) and the process of school review for program improvement schools under Section 1116; plan for involvement of Title I Parents in the Program**

A minimum of 4 parents will serve on the School Site Council (SSC) to give input/suggestions for the LCAP. Title I parents will be personally invited to serve on the SSC, but all parents will be welcome to serve on the council. ERCS is a small community of families. The majority of families have students who qualify for Title I. We do not (except for statistical purposes) categorize parents into Title I and non-Title I groups. To preserve confidentiality and to promote a heterogeneous environment, notifications will go to all parents.

At the annual meeting of the SSC, Title I (and other) parents will discuss priorities to improve student achievement and make suggestions for school improvement. These suggestions will be incorporated into the LCAP that is presented to the ERCS Board for review and approval. In addition, the School Site Council and the ERCS Board will evaluate this Parent Involvement Policy yearly, and make amendments as necessary.

The Director of Student Achievement/Literacy Coach will convene the annual School Site Council meetings to review the Parent Involvement Policy. (For non-English speaking parents ERCS will try to accommodate with Spanish translation of the documents.)

The Board is largely composed of parents. The Board, in conjunction with staff, will review student standardized test results annually and student benchmark assessments quarterly, and evaluate the ERCS educational program accordingly.

Parents will be free to address the ERCS Board with their concerns, and the Board will take appropriate action when necessary. The established complaint procedure ensures that grievances will be taken seriously and proceed toward resolution.

All open session Board meetings are open to the public.

2) **How ERCS will help the school plan and implement effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.**

Parents will participate in the annual Back to School event, where they are welcomed into the school. Parents are encouraged to participate at ERCS, and are welcome any time to observe and help in classrooms, visit at lunch and on the playground, and

suggest activities to be implemented at ERCS. They are invited to attend whole school events like the awards assemblies, winter program, science fair, young authors' events, open house, etc. to celebrate student achievement and to bond together as a community. It is ERCS' philosophy that parents should attend field trips, serve on the School Site Council, serve on the ERCS Board, and be an active participant in their child's school.

3) How ERCS will build the school's and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement.

The ERCS philosophy is that parents and family, crucial to a child's universe, exert the greatest influence over that child's thinking. What parents truly honor naturally passes to their children. Parents are invited to attend monthly events at the school. The ERCS Board tries to encourage parents to participate at school.

The ERCS Board is composed primarily of parents: parents founded this school, and they form the final link in the chain of command. Depending on their interest, families may choose how they will contribute. They have done everything from administrative tasks (governing the school, negotiating property improvements, ensuring compliance with state law etc.) to working in the classrooms, organizing field trips, fundraising, yard work, etc.

All parents may request copies of state standards, extra teacher conferences, explanation of the curriculum, and academic help for themselves to better aid their children etc. All these requests will be honored.

ERCS has updated its grievance policy to better resolve interpersonal difficulties in problem solving. This helps parents, teachers, students and Board Members to focus on better education. The policy provides a step by step set of actions to ensure that all submitted complaints are addressed.

4) How ERCS will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under Part A and under other programs as specified

All parents will be solicited for their opinions through the annual questionnaire. School Site Council members will give input regarding expenditures and improvements listed in the LCAP. They will amend and approve the Parent Involvement Policy and give input for LCAP annually.

Parents will communicate with teachers on a quarterly basis at report card time, or more frequently if necessary.

Parents who are frequently on campus will benefit from increased communication with teachers and will be familiar with classroom projects.

ERCS has a Facebook page for announcements, a school website at https://www.eelriverschool.net, sends out fliers, posts messages on the door, and uses the One Call Now system to communicate more effectively with parents throughout the school year.

All parents are welcome at ERCS' monthly Board Meetings, and are free to voice their opinions about school issues.

5) How ERCS will conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy and use the findings of the evaluation to design more effective parental involvement.

Parents will answer a yearly questionnaire indicating their satisfaction with their children's progress, the ERCS curriculum, and their access to the ERCS Board.

The results of these questionnaires and percent of parent attendance at monthly events are published in the annual program audit and the School Dashboard. Future plans may be based on the questionnaire findings.

School Site Council members contribute suggestions for improvement annually for the LCAP. They will approve the Parent Involvement Policy annually. In addition, the ERCS Board (comprised mainly of parents) will review the statistics regarding student performance on standardized tests and quarterly benchmark assessments, and contribute ideas on how to improve student achievement.

The SARC and LCAP plans will be available on ERCS's school web-site for public review.

6) How ERCS will involve parents in the activities of the Title 1 schools?

All parents are welcome on campus and in the classrooms. ERCS solicits parent volunteers in all school activities.

All parents are invited to serve on the School Site Council. These parents contribute ideas for school improvement to be included in the LCAP plan.

Extra parent-teacher conference time will be offered to any parent. Teachers will schedule conferences with parents whenever the parents request it, or whenever teachers feel it would be beneficial for the student's welfare.

Fliers are sent home with students and upcoming events are noticed on the ERCS Facebook page and the school website calendar.

7) How does the school provide accessibility and opportunity for parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory students?

Our school is very small and family based. For parents with limited English proficiency, we translate many school documents into Spanish. The school website may be translated into many different languages. Some teachers speak limited Spanish, and we may translate report cards into Spanish using google translate if parents have limited English and no translator is available. We may also use a teacher, another parent, or a student as a translator. ERCS will attempt to employ a bilingual staff member to facilitate Spanish translation.

Our school is in a small community where people know each other. If family contact is difficult to make, we search for another relative here who can facilitate communication. We also help parents who want to learn English by posting information about English classes that are locally available.

All parents are invited to school events such as back to school night, awards assemblies, holiday program, valentine party, open house, field trips, etc. where they have an opportunity to meet with other parents and join the ERCS community.