



## **PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

Nevada City School of the Arts (“NCSOTA” or “Charter School”) has developed a written Parent and Family Engagement Policy (“Policy”) with input from Title I parents and families. NCSOTA has distributed the Policy to parents of Title I students by copies available in the Business Office, posted on the school website, emailed to parents through Parent Square and will be printed and provided in Beginning of the Year (BOY) packets handed out at the beginning of the school year. This Policy describes the means for carrying out the following Title I parent and family engagement requirements.

### **NCSOTA Expectations and Objectives**

In establishing the Charter School’s expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement, NCSOTA has established the following practices:

1. NCSOTA involves parents and family members in the joint development of the Charter School’s Parent and Family Engagement Plan by soliciting feedback through the following:
  - Annual staff, parent and student surveys
  - Parent Advisory Groups held once a month
  - Suggestion boxes at each campus
  - Annual LCAP meeting in the Spring
  - Annual Title I meeting in the Spring (Food, Feedback and Fun Event)
  - Director Note sent weekly on Sunday’s
  - Monday Notes from teachers sent every Monday
2. NCSOTA provides the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity within the Charter School in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
  - NCSA staff work collaboratively with administrators to plan and implement parent and family engagement activities. Activities include Back to School Night, Portfolio Night, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Parent Advisory Group meetings and many more events throughout the school year. In addition, NCSA offers Positive Discipline classes and groups to parents.
3. NCSOTA coordinates and integrates parent and family engagement strategies to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant federal, state, and local laws and programs.
  - The Title I programs work in conjunction with special education programs
  - SRSA/REAP Grant is utilized to support Title I programs
4. NCSOTA conducts, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Policy in improving the academic quality at the Charter School.
  - An Annual Title I meeting is held to review available funds and expenses associated with providing the Title I programs. Local assessment data and Dashboard data is shared and discussed to review student achievement data and the effectiveness of the Title programs.

5. NCSOTA conducts, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of barriers to greater participation by parents/families (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).
  - A flexible number of meetings will be held at various times based on parent need and will include child care
  - Feedback through each meeting will provide the school with helpful suggestions to promote flexible meetings and how we can make those available to parents
6. NCSOTA conducts, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with Charter School personnel and teachers. 20 U.S.C. 6318(a)(2)(D)(ii)
  - Annual Parent Surveys
  - Annual Student Surveys
  - PAG (Parent Advisory Group) Meetings
  - Annual Title Meetings
7. NCSOTA conducts, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of strategies to support successful Charter School and family interactions. 20 U.S.C. 6318(a)(2)(D)(iii)
  - Annual Parent Surveys
  - Annual Student Surveys
  - Annual Title I Food, Feedback & Fun Event
  - Annual LCAP Meeting
8. NCSOTA uses the findings of the annual evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental and family engagement, and to revise, if necessary, the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. 20 U.S.C. 6318(a)(2)(E).
  - Ends Policies guide our strategies for more effective parental and family engagement
  - Monthly Board meetings are used to evaluate strategies
  - Staff Advisory meetings are held once a month to review all strategies
9. NCSOTA involves parents in the activities of the Charter School to adequately represent the needs of the population. 20 U.S.C. 6318(a)(2)(F).
  - Class plays and school events have been created to be culturally inclusive
  - Events and meetings are provided at various times to be accessible

### **Involvement of Parents in the Title I Program**

To involve parents in the Title I program at NCSOTA, the following practices have been established:

1. NCSOTA convenes an annual meeting to inform parents of Title I students about Title I requirements and about the right of parents to be involved in the Title I program. 20 U.S.C. 6318(c)(1)
  - Annual Notices are sent out in the Beginning of the Year packets
  - At Back to School Night we provide information about Title Programs
  - Socially economically disadvantaged families are notified that they qualify for Title programs when identified for free/reduced lunch program
2. NCSOTA offers a flexible number of meetings for Title I parents, such as meetings in the morning or evening. 20 U.S.C. § 6318(c)(2)
  - A flexible number of meetings will be held at various times based on parent need and will include child care
3. NCSOTA involves parents of Title I students in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the Charter School's Title I programs and the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. 20 U.S.C. § 6318(c)(3)
  - PAG (Parent Advisory Group) meetings are held to review or improve Title I programs and policies
  - Food, Feedback & Fun is annual event held to review, plan and improvement Title I programs through suggestions and feedback
4. NCSOTA provides parents of Title I students with timely information about Title I programs. 20 U.S.C. § 6318(c)(4)(A)
  - Beginning of the Year packets
  - Back to School Night
  - Annual Notices to qualifying families
  - Directors Notes are sent out every Sunday with updates
5. NCSOTA provides parents of Title I students with an explanation of the curriculum used at the Charter School, the assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet. 20 U.S.C. § 6318(c)(4)(B)
  - NCSA's SARC is posted on the school website
  - New Parent Information meetings are held several times a year
  - Back to School Night presentations
  - Annual LCAP Meetings include overall CAASPP results
  - Director FYI reports are submitted to the board with assessment updates
6. If requested by parents of Title I students, NCSOTA provides opportunities for regular meetings that allow the parents to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children 20 U.S.C. § 6318(c)(4)(C)
  - Through formal parent-teacher conferences
  - Informal requests by parents are also accommodated
  - PAG (Parent Advisory Group) meets monthly
  - Back to School Night
  - Food, Feedback and Fun Event

The Policy must be updated periodically to meet changing needs of parents and the Charter School. If NCSOTA has a process in place for involving parents in planning and designing the Charter School's programs, the school may use that process if it includes adequate representation of parents of Title I children.

### **School-Parent Compact**

NCSOTA distributes to parents of Title I students a School-Parent Compact (the "Compact"). The Compact, which has been jointly developed with parents, outlines how parents, the entire Charter School staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. It describes specific ways the Charter School and families will partner to help children achieve the State's high academic standards. It addresses the following legally required items, as well as other items suggested by parents of Title I students. 20 U.S.C. § 6318(d)

- NCSOTA's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction to meet the challenging State academic standards.
- The ways parents will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, volunteering in the classroom, and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time.
- The importance of ongoing communication between parents and teachers through, at a minimum, annual parent-teacher conferences; frequent reports on student progress; access to staff; opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate in their child's class; and opportunities to observe classroom activities and ensuring regular communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand.

NCSA met with parents through PAG (Parent Advisory Group) to provide a draft school-parent compact with requests for feedback. This compact will also be provided at the Food, Feedback & Fun event to discuss and review with parents.

### **Building Capacity for Involvement**

NCSOTA engages Title I parents in meaningful interactions with the Charter School. The Charter School supports a partnership among staff, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. To help reach these goals, NCSOTA has established the following practices.

1. NCSOTA provides Title I parents with assistance in understanding challenging state academic standards, state and local assessments, and how to monitor and improve the achievement of their children.
  - Annual LCAP Meeting provides CAASPP scores
  - Progress reports are sent out twice a year for each student
  - ParentVUE is an online portal for parents to view student progress
  - Director sends our weekly notes the include State Standards requirements, testing and best ways to support their children

2. NCSOTA provides Title I parents with materials and training, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, to help them work with their children to improve their children's achievement.
  - Training to enhance parents' abilities to support and assist their children's education may include: Family fun nights, Positive Discipline trainings, Social Media videos
3. With the assistance of Title I parents, NCSOTA educates staff members about the value of parent contributions, and in how to reach out, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and the Charter School.
  - Monday notes are sent weekly to parents by teachers
  - A staff advisory group is held to communicate parent needs and ways to engage
  - Multiple family events are held that involve staff and families to foster engagement
4. NCSOTA coordinates and integrates the Title I parental involvement program with other programs, and conducts other activities, such as parent resource centers, to encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.
  - Positive Discipline classes are offered throughout the school year
5. NCSOTA distributes information related to Charter School and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to Title I parents in a format and language that the parents understand.
  - The Charter School will ensure that communications are culturally and linguistically appropriate to the community and accomplished through means similar to other ways that other local schools are communicating important school information with parents.

### **Accessibility**

NCSOTA provides opportunities for the participation of all Title I parents and family members, including parents/family with limited English proficiency, parents/family with disabilities, and parents/family of migratory students. Information and school reports are provided in a format and language that parents/family understand, including by:

- Requesting copies of information or school reports in a language or format needed to serve these barriers that the school will provide to families in need.