

3135	Parental and Family Involvement Policy
Approval Date:	09.10.19
Category:	General School Administration
Governance Accountability:	Board of Directors, Leadership Team, Employees
Audience:	Employees, Students, Families

The UCS Board of Directors are committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child in this school. Research has proven that when schools and parents form strong partnerships, all children's potential for academic success improves significantly. In accordance with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), Title I Part A, Section 1118, all parent involvement programs, activities and procedures will be planned and implemented using meaningful consultation with parents of participating children and follow all requirements of the Title I, Part A regulations. UCS will establish objectives, programs, strategies, and activities that enhance parent involvement and reflect the specific needs of students and their families.

UCS will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including 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 at school;*
- (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 implementation of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.*

UCS will involve parents in the development of Title I School-Wide Plans, in the development of the Federal Programs Consolidated Plan, and in the process of school review and improvement if and when UCS is identified for Title I school improvement. UCS also supports the development, implementation, and evaluation of a parent involvement plan, which will involve parents at all grade levels in a variety of roles.

Most objectives, strategies, and activities are planned at UCS, although some are planned within the community. UCS will provide coordination of funding, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist in the planning and implementing effective parental involvement.

Representatives from the UCS will: (1) work closely with the school's parent involvement committee, the faculty and staff at each school, and UCS's Title I School- Wide Committee to ensure that local, state, and federal guidelines are addressed, (2) will schedule on-going in-service sessions to educate teachers and support personnel on methods, strategies, and activities to improve parental involvement, (3) will work cooperatively with community agencies and businesses in order to form partnerships which will encourage parental involvement and services to families, (4) will provide parenting education classes, family literacy classes, workshops, and training for parents, (5) will provide parenting materials, supplies, and scientifically research based parenting curriculum, and (6) will provide a committee of parents, teachers, and administrators to guide UCS's overall parental involvement efforts. The parent involvement program will be comprehensive and collaborative in nature and will include, but not limited to, the following objectives:

- ☐ Provide opportunities for all parents to become involved in decision-making about how the parent/family involvement programs will be designed, implemented, evaluated, and revised
- ☐ Promote activities and programs for families to become involved in the educational process in order to provide academic assistance at home and at school
- ☐ Promote and support parenting skill instruction
- ☐ Utilize a variety of communication tools on a regular basis to facilitate effective home/school communication
- ☐ Link parents to programs and resources within the community that provide services to families
- ☐ Provide professional development and in-service for teachers and staff to enhance their effectiveness with parents
- ☐ Disseminate information on discipline procedures, assessments, school reforms, safety, curriculum, policy, etc. to parents on a timely basis
- ☐ Support administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation
- ☐ Support involvement of parents of children at all ages and grade levels
- ☐ Recognize diverse family structures, circumstances, and responsibilities, including cultural differences, and work to eliminate barriers that hinder participation in parent/family involvement programs
- ☐ Assess the effectiveness of parental participation activities, strategies, programs, and policy and parenting education classes in the improvement of schools
- ☐ Report and use evaluation findings to revise the school-level parent involvement plans and the system-wide parent involvement policy in order to effectively improve student academic achievement, the social and emotional welfare of students, and the school's educational environment

The following activities and others will be utilized to provide parental involvement in the system:

- ☐ parent surveys
- ☐ parent compacts
- ☐ open forum discussion groups
- ☐ newsletters
- ☐ PTA meetings
- ☐ Family Literacy Programs
- ☐ parent/teacher conferences
- ☐ web site
- ☐ timely notification to parents of students who are experiencing difficulties
- ☐ volunteer programs
- ☐ Parent Involvement Committee
- ☐ Open House
- ☐ Family Fun Day
- ☐ Special Award Programs
- ☐ Title I School-wide Committee

An open door policy for prospective students and parents to visit a school before enrollment is encouraged. Students and parents will be assisted in making a transition from preschool to kindergarten, elementary to middle, or middle to high school by being invited to attend activities including: (1) tour of the school, (2) orientation programs, (3) Open House, and (4) Special programs. UCS collaborates with Ruby Pickens Tartt Public Library.

UCS will provide assistance to parents of children served by the school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:

- ☐ The State's academic content standards
- ☐ The State's student academic achievement standards
- ☐ The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
- ☐ The requirements of Title I, Part A
- ☐ How to monitor their child's progress
- ☐ How to work with educators

In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, UCS will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, parents of homeless children, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format, and including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

It is the position of the UCS Board of Directors that all persons will be afforded equal access or participation on the basis of selection criteria included in the law. This includes gender, race, religion, national origin/ethnic group, color, disability, or age. UCS assures that all parents will be given equal access to parental involvement programs. Any instance to the contrary will be thoroughly investigated by the superintendent's office and resolved in a timely manner to the advantage of any qualifying person.

Involving parents is essential to improving student achievement. The UCS Board of Directors will foster and actively support parent involvement. If UCS's Parent Involvement Policy or the Title I school-wide/school improvement plans (located at UCS) are not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, UCS will submit any written parent comments with the plans when the school system submits the plans to the State Department of Education. Written parent comments can be mailed to Federal Programs Coordinator, University Charter School, PO Box 1053, Livingston, AL 34670.