

No.	857
Category	STUDENT
Title	Title 1 Family Engagement
Date Adopted	4.26.10
Date of last revision	01.26.26

**Vida Charter School
Board of Trustees Policy**

TITLE I FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Purpose

Vida Charter School’s Board of Trustees (“Board”) is committed to the belief that all children can achieve the school vision of bilingualism and biliteracy, high academic achievement, and global citizenship. The Board acknowledges that families share the school’s commitment to the educational success of their children.

Title I, Part A (Title I) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, the purpose of Title 1 funding, “is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high quality education and reach, at minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments.”

Authority

The Board also recognizes that a child’s education is a responsibility shared by the school, family, and community. In order to effectively educate all students, the school, the families, and the community must work together cooperatively throughout the child’s educational journey.

The Board directs the school administration and personnel to consistently engage all families in the educational process, and to seek their input for continuous school improvement. We define family engagement as a collaborative partnership among the school, families, and community members to support all students in reaching the school vision. The welcoming, inclusive environment

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supporting Vida’s schoolwide Dual Language model guide us to embrace and value the cultural and linguistic strengths of our community members. As such, we promote two-way dialogue between home and school as we support families as leaders and decision-makers at all levels concerning the education of their children.

General Guidelines

To this end, the Title I Family Engagement Policy establishes programs and practices to enhance family engagement reflecting the needs and interests of all students and families. The Policy is unique to Vida Charter School, is jointly developed by families, school staff, and community partners, and provides a sense of direction for designing on-going strategies and activities to support all students and families. Similarly, student, staff and family input will also be sought in reviewing and revising the Vida Charter School Family and Student Title I Compact, which outlines how each party (school, family, and student) share in the responsibility for improved student achievement. The Title I Family Engagement Policy and the Vida Charter School, Parent and Student Title I Compact will be made available annually to all families and posted on the school website. It will also be included in the annual Vida Charter School Family and Student Handbook. Both the Policy and Compact will be written in a language families understand and will incorporate components as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 116(b).

At Vida Charter School, family engagement begins before students have even been enrolled at the school. Because the school is a Regional Charter School serving a wide geographical area, and is intentionally designed to engage families from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds, the need for family outreach and recruitment provides opportunities to involve all families in learning about the school’s curriculum and dual language model. Bilingual informational nights and school tours are offered and promoted throughout the school year. Written and verbal family communications are offered in the families’ preferred languages.

Vida Charter School will coordinate Title I family engagement activities with the local pre-schools and day-care providers including Head Start. Vida will also collaborate with local organizations including the public libraries to coordinate

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outreach to diverse families. These entities will be notified of upcoming events that may be of interest to families with an open invitation to attend.

Within the first marking period of each school year, a Fall Title I meeting will be held to inform families of the school's participation in the Title I program and to explain the requirements of the program and their right to be involved. A Spring Title I meeting will also be held in the fourth marking period. Both events are scheduled in conjunction with school-wide events in an effort to foster a stronger sense of community and increase attendance. During the fall and spring Title I meetings, all families will be provided with information about the Title I program; an explanation of the curriculum in use at the school and its relevance to a diverse student population the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet in both English and Spanish.

Vida Charter School will also assist families in understanding the State's academic content standards and state metrics for measuring student and school success. The school will educate all families on how to monitor a child's progress and work with teachers to ignite a passion for learning and improve social and academic outcomes for their children. For students selected to receive Title I services, the school will communicate to families:

- The reason(s) the child was selected for Title I services, with a presentation of the data used in the decision-making process
- The goal(s) established for the student
- A description of the services that will be offered

The School will offer opportunities to all families for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education and holistic development of their children.

The following opportunities are also extended to all Vida families throughout their child's education to ensure communication and provide for their contributions to the continuous review and improvement efforts:

- Use of two-way communications apps, phone communications, email, and other methods for families and staff to interact verbally and in writing in the family's preferred language

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- Invitations to participate in Comprehensive Planning Stakeholder groups, and public review and comment period for Comprehensive Planning
- Beginning of year bilingual family events such as “Meet and Greet”, Kindergarten Orientation, and Back to School Night
- Monthly bilingual school-wide newsletters and monthly bilingual grade level newsletters with information related to grade level curriculum and suggestions for ways families can support the learning at home
- Fall family-teacher conferences with flexible scheduling to offer convenience for families, with anonymous post-conference surveys
- Opportunities to schedule additional family-teacher conferences throughout the school year as requested
- Opportunities for family members to volunteer in their child’s classroom (in accordance with Volunteer policies and required background clearances)
- Invitations for family members to speak to students to celebrate cultural heritage and/or to promote the benefits of bilingualism / multilingualism
- Public board meetings including input on the annual budgeting process
- Opportunities for family members to serve on Board of Trustees and/or Board Committees
- Fall and Spring Bilingual Title I meetings scheduled in conjunction with other academic and social events
- Family surveys (administered in both English and Spanish) conducted a minimum of once per year which are analyzed by administrators and Board members and used for decision-making, and may drive school-wide annual goals for subsequent school year

TO THE EXTENT THAT ANYTHING IN THIS POLICY COULD BE CONSTRUED TO CONFLICT WITH APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS, AND/OR THE CHARTER APPLICATION OR ADOPTED CHARTER, THE APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS AND/OR THE CHARTER APPLICATION OR ADOPTED CHARTER CONTROL.