

SER-Niños Charter School

Family/Community Engagement Plan

SER-Niños Charter school will strengthen the academic, social and economic foundation of our community, by committing to provide its students a high-quality elementary school education that prepares them for a future of learning and leading by promoting a college-bound culture. SER-Niños Charter School is committed to ensuring the highest quality education for all students. Through parent and community support the school will help convey the importance of academic success for all students. SER-Niños Charter School intends to include parents in all aspects of their child's education and to create a home-school partnership that will empower parents and students for future success. SER-Niños Charter School will include parents and community in the development, evaluation, and revision of its program.

Facilitate Family-to-Family Support

- Family/Parent opportunities for involvement in classroom, school, and district activities will include, but not limited to:
 - Open House.
 - Literacy Celebrations
 - Parent Volunteer Program: teachers will encourage parents to volunteer in the school with activities such as reading with children, designing bulletin boards, etc. A log will be kept documenting parent volunteer time
 - Volunteer Recognition Program. A certificate of appreciation will be presented to the parents at the end of the year awards ceremony.
 - Parents will be given the opportunity to become involved in their child's education by participating in the following activities and programs:
 - Grandparents Day
 - Carnivals/Festivals
 - Field Trips
 - Monthly Parent Meetings
 - Parent Classes
 - Awards/Honors Day
 - Multicultural Celebration
 - Mother's/Father's Day Luncheon
 - Field Day
 - Books and Breakfast/Snacks and Stories/Navigating Novels
 - Second Cup of Coffee

Establish a Network of Community Resources

- The District and Schools will collaborate with business and community organizations.
 - Increase family participation in decision making
- Parents/Families and community organizations will be provided numerous opportunities to share in decision-making and to become leaders in the advisory and advocacy roles in the schools including school review and steps for school improvement.
 - The district and schools will invite parents to participate as partners in decision-making activities.

Equip Families with Tools to Enhance and Extend Learning

- Families will be given assistance by district/school staff to acquire the knowledge and skills that will assist and support their children's learning and development at home.
 - Parents will be provided with parental skills promotional pamphlets and brochures.
 - Parents will be encouraged to support their children while attending various school events including student programs, performances, assemblies, sporting events, etc.
 - Parents will be given parental support for their child's academic success in school.
 - A monthly event calendar will be maintained on each school's website and sent home with each student.
 - Parents will be encouraged to monitor homework, daily reading activities, and sign reading logs that reinforce or enrich their child's classroom learning
 - Family Literacy Night will be held bi-monthly.

Develop Staff Skills to Help Families Meet Learning Benchmarks

Encourage two-way communication between families, schools and the district both verbally and in writing using a variety of strategies and methods.

- School-wide Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held four times a year to inform parents of their child's progress in school including academic achievement and social development.
- A Student Handbook and Parent Code of Conduct will be sent home at the beginning of each school year to inform parents of district and school policies for enrollment, attendance, homework, safety and discipline procedures, Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Parents Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Parents will be required to sign and return the signature pages from the handbooks, stating that they have read and discussed the handbook with their child.
- A School-Parent Compact, a requirement of the Title I Program will be jointly developed by the Family Engagement Advisory Council that outlines how parents, the school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards.
- Teachers will send home in writing to families/parents classroom information including teacher information (phone number and e-mail address), classroom rules and procedures, grading policy, etc. at the beginning of the school year. This information can also be found on the school and teacher websites.
- Teachers will communicate with families/parents concerning their child's successes and/or problems on a regular basis through reports, notes letters, phone calls, awards, weekly folders parent/teacher conferences, progress reports, report cards etc.
- Parent/family surveys will be used to gain parental input and suggestions as to the quality of parent engagement activities in the school.

Increasing Family Participation in Decision-Making

- Families will be given opportunities by the district/school staff to participate in decision-making. Families will be able to participate on:
 - The District Leadership and Campus Leadership Teams
 - District and Campus Student Health Advisory Committees
 - District and Campus Improvement Programs focusing on shaping program activities, expectations, goals, outcomes, and timelines
 - LPAC Committee
 - Regularly held Parent/Teacher Conferences
 - Education of families regarding their rights under State and Federal regarding the Individual with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation and and the American with Disabilities Act

Evaluate Family Engagement Efforts for Continuous Improvement

- The Family Engagement Advisory Council will annually evaluate the content and effectiveness of the Family Engagement Program in the district and schools.
 - Family and Community feedback concerning the effectiveness will be received through multiple outlets and will be accepted from our websites, emails, survey and annually at our Family Engagement Meeting.
 - Documentation from district/school/family engagement activities including sign-in sheets, surveys, questionnaires, invitations, agendas, pictures, videos, newsletters, and news releases will be maintained at the district and at each school.
 - Will develop strategies to:
 - Improve open and two-way communication between families and the schools.
 - Update each school's website
 - Remove barriers that prevent parents from participating in district/school family engagement activities.
 - Improve parent and family participation in parenting classes.

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