

# URBAN ACADEMY OF GREATER PITTSBURGH CHARTER SCHOOL SCHOOL-LEVEL PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

## POLICY AND GUIDELINES

2019-2020

Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School (UAGPCS) follows the parent and family engagement guidelines listed below. UAGPCS will distribute and/or make this policy available to all parents for our schoolwide Title I program annually in a format and language that parents can understand.

### Guidelines

UAGPCS will **involve parents in the planning, review and improvement of the Parent & Family Engagement Policy** and the Schoolwide Title I Plan. The invitation to participate may be extended through any of the following Parent or Community Events or channels of parent communication:

- Class Dojo
- Annual Meeting
- Parents Academy Meetings
- Annual Mothers' Event
- Annual Fathers' Event
- Weekly Parent Newsletter
- Website / School Calendar
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Other parent communication

Parents may participate by reviewing the current policy and plan, engaging in Q&A sessions at Parent or Community Events, attending Parent Teacher Organization meetings, scheduling one-to-one conversations with teachers, or submitting ideas and suggestions to the school administration.

The policy will be:

- Jointly developed and agreed upon by parents and family members of Title I students
- Written in an understandable format and provided in a language parents can understand
- Distributed to all parents of Title I students
- Made available to the local community
- Updated annually to meet the changing needs of families and schools.

Parents will have the opportunity to review the revised plan annually during a website posting period in the spring.

UAGPCS will **provide the necessary support** to its administration, teachers and staff to plan and implement effective family engagement activities.

UAGPCS will use **parent engagement strategies** that are integrated and coordinated with other applicable Federal State, and local laws and programs.

UAGPCS will **conduct an annual evaluation** of the effectiveness of the content and effectiveness of the Parent Involvement Policy in improving the academic quality of the school and success of its students, including identifying barriers to greater participation by families and the needs of parents to assist their students' learning. The findings will be used to design strategies to support successful school and family interactions and to revise the policy.

UAGPCS will **involve families in school activities** by fostering effective collaboration with the Parent and Teacher Organization, and by using the above listed communication channels to **provide parents with timely information** about school activities, about the Title I program and about the overall education of their child(ren), including but not limited to:

- Description and explanation of curriculum to be used
- The forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress
- Proficiency levels that students are expected to meet (standards)
- Opportunities for decision-making related to the education of their children
- Opportunities for decision-making related to classroom management policies
- Materials and training on how parents can improve their child's achievement

UAGPCS will ensure, to the extent possible, that information sent home is **in a language and form parents can understand**, providing opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.

UAGPCS will convene an **Annual Meeting** in January of each year, during which parents will be informed of the school's participation in the Title I program, the requirements of the program, and their right to be involved in the planning, review and improvement of the program. UAGPCS will do its best to accommodate parents' schedules by offering flexible methods of participation in this annual meeting.

UAGPCS will include a jointly-developed and annually-reviewed **School-Parent Compact**, which is a written agreement of school, parent, and student responsibilities for helping students achieve, with the Parent / Student Handbook.

UAGPCS will support, educate and encourage school staff to **build ties between home and school.**, by educating teachers, specialized support personnel and other staff – with the assistance of parents – in the value of family contribution and providing them with strategies for reaching out, communicating with, and working with parents and families as equal partners.

UAGPCS will develop appropriate roles for **partnerships** with community-based organizations.

UAGPCS will **respond to any parent** suggestions and provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement as soon as practicably possible

**Updated 08/30/2019**