



## Young Women's STEAM Research & Preparatory Academy Parent Engagement Policy 2020-2021

Home and school collaboration is an important part of our learners' educations. Parental engagement is a key component to the overall success of each learner. We here at the Young Women's Academy strive to establish partnerships with parents, faculty, and community. We believe that, together utilizing Title 1 federal funds and guidelines, we will meet our goals to support our learners to achieve high levels of learning. Title 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act 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.

To achieve these goals, the Young Women's Academy will meet all Title 1 requirements by:

- Sending out surveys each year to parents and guardians to get a better understanding of what interests or activities families would like to see offered through our Family Engagement Program.
- Reviewing and amending, as needed, our School-Parent Compact and our Campus Family Engagement Policy each year to meet the needs of our learners and their families. We will invite parents and the community to help us review these documents and our Family engagement Program as a whole at least once each year.
- Holding annual Title 1 meetings at convenient times with parents to discuss what it means to be a Title 1 school and how we use our Title 1 funds to help our learners succeed.
- Holding Parent-Teacher conferences twice yearly to give all parents an opportunity to meet with facilitators to discuss their child's progress. In addition, our facilitators will be available through the year to meet with parents and discuss any concerns.
- Offering a monthly "Coffee with the Principal" at flexible times to allow parents time with the administrative staff to discuss issues and to keep informed on what is going on at our campus.
- Hosting at least one Family Engagement Workshop each month based on the results of the Parent Interest Survey. These meetings will be held at flexible hours to best accommodate the varying schedules of families.
- Informing parents and families of all Parent Engagement activities in a timely manner by way of social media, text messages, email, flyers, school messaging system, and/or school marquee.
- Providing parents and families with a descriptive explanation of the curriculum in use at our campus, as well as the forms that measure academic assessment, student progress, and the achievement levels of the State academic standards.
- Helping parents and families understand the technology and software programs, such as Schoology and Parent Portal, available to them to access and monitor their child's progress.
- Providing materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve achievements. Examples of such are: literacy training and technology training.
- Giving parents and families the opportunity to join and/or attend our monthly Campus Improvement Team (CIT) meetings where they may formulate suggestions and participate in decisions relating to the education of their children. If at any time a parent does not find our Campus Improvement Plan satisfactory, the school will submit any parent comments to the LEA (Local Education Agency.)
- Responding to any suggestions or concerns as soon as practically possible.
- Educating facilitators, administration, and staff in the value of parent/family contributions to the school and the education of students. We will teach faculty how to reach out, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners in the building of a school culture that promotes strong ties between parents, school, and community.

- Coordinating and integrating parental involvement activities with other Federal, State, and local programs whenever feasible.
- Ensuring that information related to school and parent programs is available in a format and language that parents can understand.

Recognizing that family is the primary influence in a child's life, the Young Women's Academy will strive to exceed Title 1 requirements by:

- Providing a campus that is inviting, safe, and inclusive. Whether it is for parent-teacher conferences, to eat lunch with their child, to volunteer, or to attend an event, we will work to make families feel welcome and a part of our YWA family.
- Always welcoming feedback and comments. We want families to know they have a voice in their child's education.
- Using all technology available to stay connected and communicate with our learners' families in a language they can understand. We feel that if parents are able to see what their students are achieving at school in real time, it will facilitate a positive environment where learners stay on top of their assignments and are less likely to fall behind.

This policy was last reviewed and amended on January 30, 2020 in collaboration with parents, faculty and community representatives. The goal in reviewing this document was to set forth a cornerstone policy to build a support network for our learners. This network will consist of family, facilitators, administrators, faculty, community, and the learners themselves. We believe that this strong base of family engagement will help us meet our goals to improve achievement, reduce absenteeism, and build parents' confidence in the education process.

