



Rainbow Dreams Academy Parent and Family Engagement Involvement Policy

2016-2017

- 1) Description provided of actions to involve parents and family members in the joint development or revision of the school's parent and family engagement plan.

This policy has been jointly developed and agreed upon by the Rainbow Dreams Academy Charter School and parent of students served in the school pursuant to Title 1. This activity took place in March of 2016. Furthermore, a detailed description is provided below for upcoming Parent and Family Engagement for the 2016-2017 school year.

- A) Rainbow Dreams Academy Charter School will convene annual meeting will be held in March, 2017. The school's parent involvement policy, developed by the school and our parents, will be distributed in both english and spanish and a uniformed format to the extent practicable, in a language parents can understand. The parents involvement policy will also be made available to the community at large. This meeting will take place on a date and at a time determined in accordance with communication and input from parents and families of Rainbow Dreams Academy. In addition, Rainbow Dreams Academy involves parents in an organized, ongoing way in the planning, review and improvement of our Title 1 program thru our quarterly meetings. Our Family Literacy and Parent School Nights which are held throughout the year with focus on curriculum standards, grade level expectations, remediation and enrichment activities, School Performance Framework, and the Nevada Growth Model. This allows for parents to make arrangements throughout the year for transportation, and provides multiple meeting times during the year. Also, this approach creates a means for parents and families to either bring their children with them to Literacy Night etc. or have ample time to set up child care. In extremely rare circumstances we will make home visits. However, we do communicate constantly with Class Dojo which is used school wide, email and mail.
- B) Rainbow Dreams Academy embraces a model of school, family and community partnership designed to foster and sustain high academic achievement and good citizenship. The Academy provides opportunities for families to be involved in the school

and the education of their children by sharing the results of the Annual District Wide Parent Survey as listed below:

- Each year an orientation is held for all parents outlining the mission/goals of the school; academic expectations; behavioral expectations, attendance expectations, etc. Each parent is given a Parent/Student handbook to ensure good communication.
- Each year a Back to School Night is held that incorporates information about the school and its academic goals for the year as well as meet the teachers.
- Title 1 meeting is held yearly in which Title 1 is explained to parents and guardians as well as annual survey is completed by parents after the Title 1 meeting.
- Each Rainbow Dreams Academy parent signs the Nevada Department of Education Educational Involvement Accord which stresses the importance of parental involvement in their child's education.
- Family Literacy and Parent School Nights are held throughout the year with a focus on curriculum standards, grade level expectations, remediation and enrichment activities
- Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled at the conclusion of each quarter to review academic progress.
- The Rainbow Connection Parent Newsletter is distributed to reinforce the mission and goals of the school and to inform parents and the school community of student/school activities.

From this Rainbow Dreams Academy develops in tandem with the parents the parent and family engagement policy.

- 2) The administration will, with the assistance of parents, educate teachers, pupil service personnel, principals, and other staff in:
 - Shall provide assistance to parents of children served by Rainbow Dreams Academy
 - Provide trainings and materials to help parents work with their child to improve individual achievement, such as Literacy and Math Night to foster parental involvement.
 - The value and utility of contributions of parents and how to communicate and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school.
- 3) The Educational Involvement Accords are integrated into the registration process through Infinite Campus. Parents must review Accords prior to completing the child's registration. Administrators and teachers will have access to the Accords whenever needed for parent/student conferences or other occasions. There is a parent representative on the Governing Board and parents serve on the Title 1 budget development to determine how best to utilize the funds set aside for parental involvement.

C) Setting Higher Standards for The Community

Academic Parent-Teacher Teams very clearly demonstrates that family-school-community partnerships with a central focus on advancing student learning can have a powerful impact. Anne Henderson, in association with the NEA Priority School Campaign, identified APTT as a national model for engaging families effectively in education. APTT is a research and evidence-based system that is unique and authentic; it emerged from a grass-roots effort to connect families and teachers to drive student learning and performance.

APTT is an intentional, systematic means of increasing student academic achievement by improving the quality and quantity of parent-teacher communication and interaction. Teachers coach parents to become engaged, knowledgeable members of the academic team in three classroom APTT meetings and one in-depth individual conference each year.

APTT provides teachers and families a time and place to share student performance data and set achievable and measurable, student-centered academic goals. Four decades of research and evidence uphold that family engagement is one of the strongest predictors of students' academic success. In particular, four strands of scholarly work framed the development of the APTT system:

- Bourdieu's work on cultural capital
- Lareau's research on concerted cultivation
- Hoover-Dempsey and Sandler's research on parental role construction and efficacy
- Paredes' research and practice on the APTT system

By using a research-based, proven system of family engagement, the school has the ability to provide families with timely academic information, clear data, coaching, assistance in setting academic goals, and a classroom climate that supports partnerships and networking.

This academically focused approach to family engagement in education gives parents the knowledge and skills necessary to be informed advocates for their children's education.

D) To ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to parents in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. Includes but is not limited to providing parents and students access to Stride Academy, Infinite Campus, Class DOJO, and Remind 101. Also, letters are sent home with students and the U.S. Postal Service.

E) Rainbow Dreams Academy and staff, to the extent feasible and appropriate, conducts meeting in which we provide assistance to parents, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the state's academic content and achievement standards, state and local assessments, the requirements of Title I, how to monitor their students academic progress, and how to work with school staff to improve the achievement of the student. The administrators, In particular, will to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with Dream Care and conduct

other activities such as a parent resource center that encourages and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children. Rainbow Dreams Academy partners with the following community organizations to assist in this endeavour.

- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., TTO
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Theta Theta Omega - Kappa Xi Chapter (UNLV)
- Bank of Nevada
- Caesar Entertainment, Inc
- CenturyLink
- Charms, Inc.
- Clark County School District
- Delta Theata Boule - Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity
- GEM Printing
- MGM Resort International
- Mimi's Restaurant - N. Durango
- Nevada Partners
- Nevada State Bank
- NVEnergy
- Outside Las Vegas Foundation
- Project REAL (Relevant Education About the Law)
- RDA Ambassador Leon Lett
- Red Rock Interpretive Association - MOJAVE MAX PROGRAM
- Southern Nevada Black Nurses Association
- Southern Nevada Coalition of Concerned Women, Incorporated
- St. James the Apostle Catholic Church
- Starbucks - Rancho/Washington
- The Links, Incorporated Las Vegas Chapter
- The Urban Voice Magazine
- Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.
- Trina Jiles, Gritz Cafe
- University of Nevada Las Vegas, School of Pediatric Dental Medicine Arlene Joyner-Tucker, DDS
- VegasEVibe
- Victory Missionary Baptist Church
- Walmart
- West Las Vegas Library

- Wingsong Trust
- Women Standing Tall Foundation - (Monique Payton)

F) Administrators will provide reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request such as providing the parents to take their child to Dream Care, our child care program, during meetings and provide parent comment and suggestion sheets in order to obtain data related to the level of services that the parents are receiving and any other related services that the parent may be requesting.

4) A) Rainbow Dreams Academy will continue to build on parents' capacity for involvement in order to improve student academic achievement through the following activities:

- Providing information on the State's academic content standards
- Assisting parents in understanding the challenges of the State Academic Standards
- Providing information concerning the State and local academic assessments during APTT, Parent Orientation, Title 1 Literacy and Math Nights, and Back to School Night
- Provide information on the State's proficiency level targets
- Explain the requirements of Part A in a manner that is understandable
- Provide detailed information on the curriculum that the school is using
- Provide an overview of how to use IC in order to monitor their child's progress and grades
- Provide APTT overview of how parents and educators work together to strengthen the academic success of all students

B) Rainbow Dreams Academy will provide materials and training to help parents and family members to assist their children in improving academically via Parent Orientation which will also foster parental and family engagement. RDA will also provide parents with the ability to communicate with their child's teacher via Class Dojo, email and a monthly newsletter. In addition, monthly celebrations will be held where parents and families are invited to celebrate their students' outstanding achievements in school.