



## ***Rainbow Dreams Academy Parent and Family Engagement Policy***

**2019-2020**

This policy has been jointly developed and agreed upon by the Rainbow Dreams Academy Charter School and the parents of students served in the school, pursuant to Title One. The Title One Annual Meeting took place on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, children were welcome at the meeting. RDA hosted 2 Parent Engagement Meetings, which took place on September 4<sup>th</sup> and on October 17<sup>th</sup> (7:45am), children, were again, welcome to attend the meeting. The annual Title One information can be found on the RDA website. Furthermore, a detailed description is provided below for continued Parent and Family Engagement for the 2018-2019 school year.

1. Parent and Family Engagement Meetings
  - A. Rainbow Dreams Academy Charter School convened two parent meetings which were held on September 4<sup>th</sup> and on October 17<sup>th</sup>. These meetings took place on a date and at a time determined in accordance with communication and input from parents and families of Rainbow Dreams Academy.
  - B. The RDA Parent and Family Engagement Policy, developed by the school and our parents, will be distributed in both English and Spanish and a uniformed format to the extent practical, in a language parents can understand. The Parent and Family Engagement Policy will also be made available to the community at large via the Rainbow Dreams Academy website.
  - C. Rainbow Dreams Academy involves parents in an organized, ongoing way in the planning, review and improvement of our Title One program through quarterly meetings, Family Literacy Night, and Parent and Family STEM 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. Having multiple meetings throughout the year, allows for parents to make arrangements in advance for transportation and time off work, if needed. Also, this approach creates a means for parents and families to bring their children with them to Literacy and STEM Nights. In extremely rare circumstances, we will make home visits. School communications are constantly sent utilizing Class Dojo (which is used school wide), email, and traditional mail, RDA Facebook, RDA Website and the Rainbow Connection Newsletter.
    - a. It was suggested by parents that we develop an Instagram account and an automated phone system (phone link).

2. Rainbow Dreams Academy embraces a model of school, family and community partnership designed to foster and sustain high academic achievement and good citizenship.

- a. RDA will provide opportunities for families to be involved in the planning of school events and the education of their children.
- b. One of the opportunities is by taking a Survey provided through RDA. RDA has utilized the Title I Surveys after each Title I Family Event. In the 2018-2019 school year, RDA will continue to use Title I Program Evaluations and create our own Survey and inform families about the RDA Survey in the following ways:
  - RDA will provide the survey in the Rainbow Connections newsletter.
  - RDA will provide opportunities for parents to access the computer lab to take the survey at all future Title One, Academic Parent Teacher Teams (APTT) and Parent Conference events.
  - The results of the survey showed that 98% of parents found RDA's parent engagement opportunities to be interesting, understandable and useful to increase their scholar's academic growth in school and at home. This information was shared at RDA's Annual Title One Meeting. The information from this meeting will be posted on RDA's website.
  - Suggestions for improvement are outlined below.

A. Setting Higher Standards for The Community

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

- B. 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.
3. The administration will, with the assistance of parents, educate teachers, pupil service personnel, principals, and other staff in:
    - 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; using events such as Literacy and STEM Nights to foster parental/guardian 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, community and the school.
  4. The Educational Involvement Accords are integrated into the registration process through Infinite Campus. Parents must review these Accords prior to completing the child's online 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 One Budget Development Team to determine how best to utilize the funds set aside for parental involvement.
  5. 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 practical, in a language the parents can understand. Includes but is not limited, to providing parent's access to The Rainbow Connection Newsletter, Stride Academy, Infinite Campus, and Class DOJO. Also, letters are sent home with students and via traditional mail.
  6. Rainbow Dreams Academy and staff, to the extent feasible and appropriate, conducts meetings 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 One, how to monitor their students' academic progress, and how to work with school staff to improve the achievement of students. The administrators, in particular, will to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and

integrate parent involvement programs, community outreach services and other activities to encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children. These opportunities and community services are communicated to parents via the Rainbow Connections newsletter and announced at RDA events. Rainbow Dreams Academy partners with the following community organizations to assist in this endeavor.

- 100 Black Men of Las Vegas, Inc.
- 100 Black Women
- Link of Las Vegas, Inc.
- Three Square – Backpack program
- Global Charities Foundation
- Dream Care

- a. Parents can request additional support or express any needs they have by scheduling a meeting with an administrator or teachers. In addition, parents may fill out a suggestion comment card and place it in the RDA suggestion box, which is located at the front desk.

7. 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 One Literacy and STEM Nights, and Back to School Night
- Provide information on the state's proficiency level targets, as well as RDA NWEA MAP Testing
- 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 with improving academically. RDA will also provide parents with the ability to communicate with their children'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.