



Rainbow Dreams Early Learning Academy

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2023-2024

## I. Introduction

Family engagement is a cornerstone of student success. The collaboration between schools and caregivers establishes a strong foundation for academic achievement, influencing behavior, attitudes, and overall student performance. Parents and caregivers are the primary role models for children, and a partnership involving parents, students, administrators, and teachers paves the way for lifelong learning. Parent and caregiver involvement is a vital component of Rainbow Dreams Early Learning Academy's decision-making process.

In recognition of this understanding and compliance with Title I requirements, Rainbow Dreams Early Learning Academy (RDELA) acknowledges the shared responsibility among parents, schools, and the community in reinforcing the importance of academic achievement.

B. Data collected by RDELA through stakeholder surveys to parents, teachers, community members, and staff indicates that while RDELA has met the family and student needs of access to technology, but does not provide enough opportunities for parent observation, volunteering and collaboration. Concerns were also raised about the need for more in-person opportunities to participate, either in the classroom as an assistant or by chaperoning in-person field trips. Campus safety has greatly improved. To address these concerns from the 2022-2023 academic year, RDELA has increased parent engagement events and . RDELA already collaborates closely with Nevada Partners, which was mentioned in the feedback. Survey results were shared during the Title I Annual Meeting and again during the follow-up RDELA Town Hall Meeting. Special attention will be given to improving communication for families without access to technology and to provide more in-person opportunities for parent and family engagement. Our monthly literacy nights include activities that encourage families to work together to make literacy an integral part of daily activities. Training sessions for parents on curriculum and behavior management will continue throughout the 2023-2024 academic year.

## II. Development and Distribution of Parent and Family Engagement Policy

RDELA will jointly develop and distribute to parents, caregivers, and family members of students served in the school a Parent and Family Engagement Policy to:

1. Foster a strong and effective relationship between parents, families, schools, and the Clark County community to enhance academic quality and student performance.
2. Create an inclusive and welcoming environment that encourages involvement, making families and caregivers feel welcomed, valued, and connected to the RDELA community.
3. Comply with Title I, Part A requirements concerning the establishment of a parent and family engagement policy according to Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

### III. Parent and Family Engagement Meetings

Rainbow Dreams Early Learning Academy shall offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, childcare, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement.

A. To address the need for family input, RDELA will host a minimum of two parent meetings to review and approve the proposed Parent and Family Engagement Policy. A Title One Annual Meeting was held on 9/25/2023, at 5:00 PM PST, with a second meeting scheduled for 9/28/2023, at 5:00 PM PST, for final approval of the plan. The previous plan was approved on October 15, 2022. The meetings are conducted in a hybrid fashion to accommodate parents without reliable internet access and for those affected by health issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Parents unable to attend either meeting are provided access to the full presentation and agenda, with the opportunity to reach out to administration with questions at the annual open house on 9/29/2023 and the Parent Literacy Town Hall Meeting scheduled for 10/19/2023.

B. RDELA plans to host a TITLE I 2023-2024 exit meeting with parents in the latter part of the spring quarter to review how the policy has met their needs and how to strengthen the engagement policy for the following school year.

C. Parents will be notified of any Title I meetings or changes in RDELA's Title I budget or status through hard copy flyers, email, posted notifications on the "Parent" portal of the official RDELA website, and messages sent by the child's teacher through Class Dojo. Further invitations and training may be conducted through the Ready Rosie Parent Engagement portal.

D. Meeting times shall remain flexible to meet the needs of families, especially in light of the recent health crises. Title I meetings will be available to view via live-streamed videos and in person meetings on campus for those less comfortable with technology. This will provide opportunities for feedback and participation for parents and caregivers

unable to attend in person. All meeting documents will be available for download on the day of the meeting and for the remainder of the academic year from both Class Dojo and our official school website.

E. RDELA will provide unlimited in-person attendance options on 9/28/2023. Limited in person options were made available for the 9/25/23 meeting.

F. If assistance is required to attend Title I meetings, RDELA will provide reasonable accommodations with prior notice from parents or caregivers.

#### IV. Parent and Family Engagement Program and Activities

RDELA shall involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under this part, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the school-wide program plan and events under section 1114(b) (Campus Improvement Plan), except that if a school has in place a process for involving parents in the joint planning and design of the school's programs, the school may use that process, if it includes adequate representation of parents of participating children (Section 1116(c)(3)).

A. Parent involvement may be sought through school-wide surveys, small committees, or all-parent "town-hall" style meetings. Further involvement may be sought for volunteering in campus-wide activities.

B. Program evaluations will be available for all school-sponsored activities and events to provide families with the opportunity to provide regular feedback on the effectiveness of programming.

C. Parents or caregivers may request to join the planning committee or volunteer pool at any point during the school year.

D. Additional activities may be conducted at the classroom or grade level.

#### V. Effective Communication

RDELA shall provide parents of participating children with:

(A) Timely information about programs under this part;

(B) A description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and

(C) If requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

- A. Families should feel comfortable engaging in regular two-way communication between teachers and administrators concerning student learning.
- B. Families may reach out through phone calls, email, Class Dojo, or by scheduling parent-teacher or parent-administrator conferences.
- C. Parents may request written progress reports or updates about their students' strengths and challenges at any point during the academic year.
- D. Parents and caregivers will be invited to participate in regular surveys or conferences regarding their students' activities, curriculum, or needs.
- E. RDELA will send out regular school letters detailing upcoming events and successes within that period.
- F. RDELA will strive to provide resources to connect with parents in their native language and employ cultural sensitivity in all correspondence.
- G. Parents have the right to advocate for their child to ensure that all students are treated fairly and have access to educational supports and learning opportunities.

## VI. RDELA and The Community

RDELA's vision is to become a model Early Learning Academy within Clark County. Community and family involvement is an essential ingredient for achieving this goal. RDELA will strengthen family and community involvement by creating partnership opportunities and sharing resources to enhance the education of the children in Clark County.

- A. Rainbow Dreams Academy partners with the following community organizations to assist in this endeavor:
  - a. Nevada Partners
  - b. 100 Black Men of Las Vegas, Inc.
  - c. 100 Black Women
  - d. Link of Las Vegas, Inc.
  - d. Three Square - Backpack program
  - e. Global Charities Foundation
  - f. Dream Care
  - g. Title I H.O.P.E.

- B. RDELA will regularly seek out new partnerships and feedback opportunities with local community sponsors and businesses.
- C. Parent and caregiver input will be taken into consideration when establishing community partnerships.
- D. RDELA will act as a liaison between community services and family needs when necessary.

## VII. Providing Assistance

The administration will educate teachers, pupil service personnel, principals, and other staff to provide support for parents:

- A. Providing training and materials to help parents work with their child to improve individual achievement.
- B. Using events such as Literacy Night and STEM Nights to foster parental/guardian involvement and inform parents about current curriculum and events.
- C. Connecting parents and caregivers with resources necessary for students' academic and social-emotional success. This includes providing laptops, hotspots, uniforms, meals, and school supplies to all students attending our academy.
- D. Creating family engagement opportunities to meet with administration, staff, and teachers in less formal and less intimidating settings, such as "Doughnuts with the Director" or "Grandparent's Breakfast."
- E. Maintaining an open-door policy for parents and caregivers to communicate their needs, questions, or concerns in a manner in which they feel most confident.
- F. Partnering with Rainbow Dreams Foundation and Amazon to provide groceries to our student's families in need.

## VIII. The Educational Involvement Accords

The Educational Involvement Accords are integrated into the registration process through Infinite Campus. Parents can and should review these accords before completing their child's online registration. Administrators and teachers will have access to the accords as needed for parent-student conferences and other occasions. A parent representative sits on the Governing Board, and parents serve on the Title One Budget Development Team

to determine the best use of funds allocated for parental involvement.

## IX. Monitoring Success

RDELA acknowledges that regular evaluation is essential for gauging program effectiveness. The school will routinely seek feedback from teachers, staff, parents, and caregivers to measure the campus climate. Additionally, parents will be offered tools and guidance on interpreting student scores and how RDELA compares academically to similar institutions.

- A. Parents can request additional support in understanding their student's curriculum or standardized test results.
- B. Survey results will be used to identify barriers to greater participation.
- C. Providing information on the state's academic content standards through teacher-parent correspondence via Class Dojo and via quarterly RDELA Town Hall Meetings for all staff, students, and caregivers.
- D. Assisting parents in understanding the challenges of the state academic standards through quarterly Town Hall Meetings, parent teacher conferences, and Monthly Student Parent Literacy events.
- E. Providing information about state and local academic assessments during APTT, parent orientation, Title I Annual meetings, Literacy and STEM Nights, and Back to School Night.
- F. Offering a comprehensive overview of the curriculum used by the school.
- G. Providing guidance on how to use Infinite Campus to monitor their child's progress and grades.

## X. Policy Implementation and Amendments

This policy will be implemented, reviewed, and amended in accordance with NRS Chapter 392 and applicable federal law.