

REACH ACADEMY FOR GIRLS



PARENT INVOLVEMENT PLAN

DEVELOPED
Spring 2013

Reach Academy for Girls

Parental Involvement Plan

The vision of Reach Academy for Girls is to prepare our students to be life-long, independent learners that are prepared for college and career success. With the support of our parents and community, we will foster positive social behavior and nurture the emotional needs of each student. We will uphold high academic expectations for all students through effective, evidence - based instructional methods and strategies.

The following outline is in compliance with the legal requirements of the state of Delaware, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and Race to the Top strategic plan 2010. The document represents joint development with parents, students and school staff. Reach Academy for Girls Parental Involvement Plan may include, but is not limited to, the following:

The participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

1. parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
2. parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
3. parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, in decision-making and on advisory committees as appropriate to assist in the education of their child;
4. parents are involved in identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parent involvement activities.

Purpose: The purpose of parent involvement is to increase each parent's capacity to help their child(ren) become prepared for a career or college.

To facilitate meaningful parent involvement in our school we will:

1. **Develop a Parent Advisory Committee:** The school will establish a parent advisory committee to assist in the review of the student handbook, parent involvement plan, use of parent involvement funds, and the annual review and evaluation of our school Title I program as well as the review and plan for school improvement. The school will solicit parents to serve on the committee at the start of each school year. Any parent of a student in this school is eligible to serve on this committee. The school will establish, from a list of parents willing to serve on the committee, a group of 4 to 8 parents who serve throughout the school year. Every effort will be made to make all parents aware of the efforts of this committee and solicit input from all parents concerning these efforts. The Parent Advisory Committee, or any parent, may

request opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate in decisions relating to the education of their children and the school.

2. **Annually review our Parent Involvement Plan:** The school will, with consultation and input from their parents, annually review and when necessary revise this parent involvement plan. The plan will outline how the school will work with their parents to throughout the school year. A meeting will be held within the first month of school to review and possibly revise this plan. This plan will clearly establish when and how parents will be involved in all aspects of the Title I program.
3. **Annually review our Parent /School Compact:** The school will, with consultation and input from their parents, annually review their Parent/School handbook. The compact will list the responsibilities of the student, parent/caregiver, classroom teacher, and school administrator. All parents will be annually provided copies of the parent/school compacts at the start of each school year, and will be provided with opportunities for input into this document throughout the year. A meeting will be held in the spring of each year to provide parents an opportunity to review and possibly revise the current parent/school compact. Throughout the school year parent input on the parent/school compact will be solicited and used during the spring meeting in the possible revision of this document.
4. **Annually establish how Title I Parent Involvement Funds will be used:** The school will, with consultation and input from their parents, annually develop a plan for use of any Title I parent involvement funds. These funds will be used to provide parents with materials, pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities (including transportation and child care costs) to enable participation in school related meetings and training, and other costs directly associated with increasing parental involvement. A plan for use of these funds should be completed at the first meeting of the school year, and be shared with all parents.
5. **Annually review the use of Title I funds and evaluation of the use of these funds:** The school will, with consultation and input from their parents, annually review how Title I funds will be used throughout the school year. This should be done at the first meeting of the year. Parents will be provided with data that supports the use of these funds. Before the end of each school year parents will be provided with evaluation information/data that assesses the effectiveness of the Title I school program, staff development conducted throughout the year, and all parent involvement activities held during the year.
6. **Facilitate regular, meaningful two-way communication:** The school will hold an annual meeting for parent to explain parental involvement and what it means to them as a parent and to their student and to explain the right of parents to be involved in

the school and in their child(ren)'s education. This will be done at Back to School Night, in the fall. The school will also offer this information at meetings held at flexible and convenient times for parents. The school will provide parents a description and explanation of the curriculum, student progress measures, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the student achievement. Curriculum, content standards, measures and proficiency levels will be highlighted in the parent newsletter monthly. The school will ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to parents in a timely manner and in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand, and provide reasonable alternate formats as requested.

7. **Build the capacity of parents to support their child(ren)'s learning:** The school will provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement. This will include a *STEAM* family night, an *ARTS* night and a family reading night. The school will also offer Parent Information Nights for families.

8. **Build the capacity of school staff to work with parents:** The school will work with the Title I and RTI programs to train and education staff in how to reach out to, communicate with, work with parents as equal partners and build ties between the parent and the school.

9. **Parenting:** Involve parents of students at all grade levels in a variety of roles – such as volunteers, resource people, judges in writing projects, and various other activities.

Examples include:

- *Room-mothers: volunteers for teachers during activities, parties, field trips, special events*
- *Parent Volunteers: helps with making copies for teachers, helping gather resources, volunteering in the classrooms, etc.*
- *Watch Dog Dads: An invitation is extended to families (dads, grandfathers, etc) members volunteer their time at the school helping in the classrooms, lunchroom, recess, before school arrival and after school dismissal etc.*
- *Allow and support the development of a school PTO (Parent-Teacher Organization).*

10. Communicating: Maintain regular, two-way communication. All teachers will meet with parents or guardians of each student at least once a semester through parent/teacher conferences, telephone conferences, or a home visit. Teachers will communicate more frequently if additional support is needed.

Other examples of communication between the school and parents will include the following:

*Provide informational packets with a variety of resources according to grade level. These packets will include items such as school calendars, schedules of special events, the interim testing schedule, school handbooks, supply lists, learning expectations, etc. These packets will be given to parents at registration, open houses, or during conference times.

*The district's website, www.reachacademyforgirls.org/ will be made available to parents and guardians to provide information concerning the schools and the schools' activities. Each staff member will have a designated page with information about their classroom, upcoming events, and programs at the school.

*Provide access to a website which allows parents to monitor their child's academic progress and attendance.

*Send home classroom and school newsletters on a regular basis.

*Utilize "Edmodo," a website, to help keep parents and guardians notified of up-to-date announcements, weather closings, school news, and events.

Promoting and supporting responsible parenting

Reach Academy for Girls will:

*Recognize parental involvement through local media including feature articles and/or pictures.

*Provide parenting books, magazines and other informative material regarding responsible parenting through the school library, advertise the current selection, and give parents an opportunity to borrow the materials to review.

*Supply parents with parenting workshops on assisting with homework, and other topics concerning effective parenting.

*Create a classroom newsletter to be distributed to all parents in the student homework folder.

*Provide the parents notice of scheduled school events through Edmodo, www.reachacademyforgirls.org/ or classroom newsletter.

Provide the following items in a parent area:

*Brochures on parenting tips

* Parenting Videos

*Homework Help/Tips

*Information on parenting from The US Department of Education

*Books with information on effective parenting & other topics important to parents.

Parental Awareness in student learning

Reach Academy for Girls will:

*Schedule 2-3 “Parent Nights” where parents are given a report on the state of the school and an overview of curriculum, assessment, expectations of both parents and teachers, and how parents can assist and make a difference in his or her child’s education.

Examples may include:

*PTO Night-Title I Report to the Public

*Family Math, Science, and Literacy Nights

*Open-house meeting for parents the week before school begins.

Encouraging parental support and assistance

Reach Academy will encourage parental support and assistance in the following ways:

*Give the parents our policy that encourages parents to:

- a. Visit a child's classroom during regular school hours and scheduled events.
- b. Visit with the counselor/and or principal regularly or if a need arises.
- c. Explains parent visitation in classrooms and pick-up procedures.

*Maintain a volunteer resource book that lists and matches the interests and availability of volunteers to school staff members. The survey that shows parental interests, frequency of wish to participate (may be only once a year), and listing options for those available to work at home will be included.

- a. A volunteer sign-in sheet in the resource book will be located in the outer office.
- b. Parents entering the building will be encouraged to volunteer their services.
- c. The resource list and survey will be included in the resource book.

Recognizing full partnerships between school and family

Reach Academy for Girls recognizes that a parent is a full partner in the decisions that affect his or her child and family. Reach Academy will include parents by:

*Publishing the school's process for resolving parental concerns (defining the problem, the chain of command, and how to develop solutions) in the Reach Academy for Girls handbook.

*Scheduling parental conferences at times agreed upon by the dean of students, parents, teachers, and or principal.

*Providing extra copies of the handbook so it will be available upon requests.

*Involving parents on Reach Academy committees when applicable.

Collaborating with Community Resources

*A parent advisory commission made up of alumni parents and current parents will be established to provide advice and guidance for school improvement.

*Work with community/business members to help with and promote activities within the school to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning.

*Support the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of the program to involve parents in the decisions and practices of the school by including parents in the Title I plans, handbook revisions, and in the PTO.

Parent evaluation surveys will be disseminated at the end of each year and will be included as a part of the school evaluations of programs.

The principal(s) of Reach Academy for Girls will designate at least one certified staff member that is willing to serve as parent facilitator to organize meaningful training for staff and parents promoting and encouraging a welcoming atmosphere to parental involvement.

Designate a certified staff member at the beginning of the school year.

Show parental involvement as an asset to the school.

The Reach Academy for Girls will require (1-2) hours of staff development for teachers to enhance their understanding of effective parenting.

The Reach Academy for Girls will annually review and update the parental involvement plan and give it to the superintendent.

The Reach Academy for Girls School Parental Involvement Plan will be reviewed by Department of Education as part of the charter school renewal process.

Activities Calendar

August

Weekly Newsletters/School Newsletters
Faculty training in Parental Involvement
Open House/ Annual Report to the Public
Distribute Informational Packets (including survey/calendar)

September

Weekly Newsletters/School Newsletters
Progress Reports
Dads Breakfast
K-2 Math Night
PTO Kindergarten Night

October

Newsletters/School Newsletters
Dads Breakfast
PTO – 1st Grade Night
Parent-Teacher Conferences?
Parent Involvement Meetings
Report Cards
Red Ribbon Week

November

Newsletters/School Newsletters
Dads Breakfast
Fall Celebration
Thanksgiving Celebration
School Can Food Drive
Progress Reports
PTO 2nd Grade Night

December

Newsletters/School Newsletters
Winter Concert

January

Newsletters/School Newsletters
Awards Programs
STEAM Night
Report Cards

February

Newsletters/School Newsletters
Progress Reports
Valentine Parties
Black History Assembly
Health Fair

March

Newsletters/School Newsletters
Report Cards
Women History Assembly
Conferences

April

Newsletters/School Newsletters
Parent/Teacher conferences
Progress Reports
Fifth Grade Play

May

Weekly Newsletters/School Newsletters
Kindergarten Round-up
Awards Programs- Semester
Graduation Program
Report Cards
Field Celebration

June

Newsletters/School Newsletters
Class Trips
Awards Programs
Kindergarten Graduation
Eighth Grade Graduation
Report Cards

All Year

- *Positive Communication with Parents
- *Email/Mail Communication
- *Updated Webpage Information
- *Classroom Newsletter
- *PTO Nights

The Reach Academy for Girls Parent Involvement Committee Members

Parent Involvement Coordinator
Principal
Teacher
PTO President
Parent