

1.7 Parent and Community Involvement

14 Del. C. §§ 512(1) and (6)

Parent Involvement

1. Describe the role of any parents/guardians and community members involved....

Preparation of the charter and development of the LTA academic program has involved many constituencies; Delaware educators, parents, community members and businesses. LTA Founding Board has evolved with the interest in creating a state of the art high school for underserved populations in greater Wilmington and the New Castle County areas. All stakeholders including parents and community members were involved in the development of the school's mission which focuses on *Leadership, Entrepreneurship, Achievement and Nutrition (L.E.A.N)*

LTA has selected Mr. Elijah Wilson Wilson of A & E Business Solutions as its Founding Board Budget and Finance Advisor and contracted Financial Oversight and CFO once the school opens. Mr. Elijah Wilson Wilson is recognized for his successful approach to ensuring that charter schools in the state of Delaware that he worked with in the past: Kuumba Academy, Marion T. Academy and Family Foundations Academy has adhered to regulatory guidelines, internal controls, with its cash receipts, capitalization and other internal policies, procedures, processes that addresses many aspects of the charter school operations.

Nemours Health and Prevention Services has agreed to partner with LTA by providing webinars, conference notifications, and teacher training. *See ATTACHMENT 13 letters from prospective parents. See ATTACHMENT 14 for support from Community Partners.*

Robert Anderson, Sr., retired high school principal in the Christina School District, owner of BRIDGE to Achievement, LLC and one of the original Founders since 2012, is helping to successfully launch LTA as its Project Leader. Mr. Anderson's expertise with the day to day school operations charge, performance, governance and management, curriculum and assessment in producing this application will continue to be a vital asset once the school opens. Mr. Anderson and his team of comprehensive community educators will be the driving force behind the motivation and success of LTA's staff development; encompassing Project Based Learning and the Response to Intervention model. Additionally, BRIDGE to Achievement has shared best practices expertise in working with special education students, inclusion learning environments and incorporating programs in this application that will help at-risk populations achieve their goals.

Many parents in the Wilmington District Neighborhood Planning Councils including Subriah Ibrahim, community parental advocate, is a proponent of our extended day program including the SAT extra preparation for our 11th and 12th grade students. Her council will be assisting with the writing of grants to re-start this much needed program once LTA opens.

Wayne Ravenell, parent and high school science teacher in the Brandywine School District has been involved in the development of the application by his involvement and connection with the DDOE Science Coalition, knowledge of robotics, and a science 1.8 Startreader in Forum to Advance Minorities in Engineering Program (FAME). Mrs. Eklund Eklund, Human Resources Director with Christiana Health Care Systems and a member of LTA's Governing Board, will sponsor and develop health care partners for LTA from Christiana Health Care Systems.

LTA will continue to build mutual trust, establish ongoing relationships and a strong foundation with each of our parents. LTA will achieve results through business and community partnerships. LTA's President/CEO, School Leader and Board of Directors will build effective sustainable relationships as a community school; a place of partnerships connecting our school, the families of our students and the surrounding community.

2. Describe the outreach that you have conducted to engage prospective parents/guardians in the area you are proposing to serve.

Since 2012, the Founding Board has been in the process of engaging and informing communities in New Castle County about the development of LTA. Outreach activities have included hosting public information sessions, meetings with Local Education Agencies (LEA's) of New Castle County School Districts, School Leaders of Thomas Edison Charter School, Family Foundations, Prestige Academy and Eastside Charter Schools; conducting public and social media campaigns, seeking feedback on the school's design and potential demand through an electronic survey, gathering letters and surveys from New Castle County businesses and community based organizations. Individuals who participated in these outreach activities were notified of LTA's responsive electronic messages and information page on its website (www.leantechacademy.org). The Board will continue to post updates through electronic tools that were set up during the application process including the school's Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn pages. The Founding Board continues to attend community and district neighborhood council meetings over the next several months to solicit additional feedback and support. LTA envisions that there will be a higher volume of parents and community members attending information sessions post charter application approval to learn more specifics about the school and the process for enrollment.

3. In Attachment 13, provide evidence of support for the proposed school among

See ATTACHMENT 13.

4. Describe how you will engage parents/guardians in the life of the school, in addition to...

Parental Involvement will focus on best practices and goals that include: volunteering, parenting skills, communicating, learning at home, decision-making and collaborating with the community. Parents will pledge to support healthy lifestyles, fitness and wellness as an integral part of their child's academic program. A minimum of one Delaware certified teacher employed by the school and one parent of a student enrolled in the school will hold positions on the LTA Board of Directors. Parents and teachers will also be represented on the LTA Citizens Budget Oversight Committee and Advisory Board. Parents and teachers will assume key leadership roles as shared decision-appointed to serve as a critical resource in the school for

identifying needs, identifying resources, and organizing and running events. A school parent liaison in conjunction with the school's PTO will be makers in the life of the school.

LTA will actively garner and commit to the volunteer involvement of its parents for the PTO, sports boosters program, school improvement and other school committees, library, music department, classrooms and office aides, field trip chaperones, wellness center and general assistants throughout the school and the Parent Education Center (PEC). Parents will play a leading volunteer role during its Thursday evenings collaborative wellness workshops with students and parents.

Parents will be important allies and stakeholders in a student's academic program. Aligned with the school's mission, parents will be expected to play a critical role in the development of each student's course of study. Parents will be required on a regular basis to review and sign off on a student's learning plan at the beginning of each marking period. Parents will be actively involved with student exhibitions, and presentations based on a student's course of study.

Parental surveys will be a tool used on an annual basis to provide feedback and to assess the needs of parents and that of the larger community. Data on family and parental engagement will be collected by the School Leader or designee and reported to the Board as part of the school's success plan.

One of the key components which integrates parents into the development and overall functioning of LTA is the Parent Education Center. The Parent Education Center will be housed onsite at LTA and will include various elements such as a technology area where parents and community will be granted monitored access to the Internet as well as the other technological devices.

LTA's Parent Education Center (PEC) will be an integral part of the LTA's Parent and Community Involvement Program and the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Our mission is to continually keep our parents involved in order to set a standard of excellence in parental relationships; thereby helping LTA meet its students' academic achievement goals.

Parent Learning Community Center is open daily 12 Noon – 8:00 PM (Operated by involved parent volunteers and students as an entrepreneurial experience)
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Sample Entrepreneurial experiences for students on the campus:

1. Parent Education/Resource Center (Year 2)
2. School Store (Year 1)
3. Vegetable garden (farmer's market) – (Year 2)
4. Toddlers on the move – (Year 2)
5. Seniors on the move – (Year 2)
6. Dance studio – (Year 1)
7. Cafeteria (culinary arts) – (Year 1)