

1.7 Parent and Community Involvement

Parent Involvement

1. Describe the role of any parents/guardians and community members involved in developing the proposed school.

Preparation of the charter application has involved two key groups: (1) Delaware teachers, parents, and community members who comprise the school's Founding Group (2) Surveying Delaware's community regarding the need and interests of parents as it relates to Delaware Schools.

The Founding Group has been working together since 2013. Since its inception the group has grown and remains passionate and committed to the successful launch of a new school in Sussex County. The members of the board are well-established members of the surrounding community and have a vested interest not only in the success of the developing community, but also in supporting a superior-quality school that offers a high-degree of rigor and research-based instructional practices, is innovative, and offers differentiated experiences for students.

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

A survey has been conducting and it was mention regarding the proposed charter school to each participant. Additionally, members of the board has attended a community meeting in Sussex County at First State Community Action where members of the community gathered to discuss their concerns regarding the current school policies and procedures. Additionally, a member of the Board attended the Delaware Charter School Network Expo and was able to collaborate with existing schools.

If a charter is granted Vine's Preparatory School's found board will engage and inform the community about the proposed school throughout planning cycle. The Founding Board has identified three key audiences on which to focus their outreach efforts: parents, students, and community organizations. Outreach activities will include engaging the school's planned Advisory Board; conducting community meetings; reaching out to groups involved in the feasibility study for the school, along with the target population previously referenced in marketing activities; meeting with State representatives and key stakeholders; establishing a social media presence; and engaging in upcoming community events. Regular communications highlighting the school's progress over the next several months will be provided to these groups, as well.

3. In Attachment 13, provide evidence of support for the proposed school among prospective parents/guardians. Identify how many letters of support from parents/guardians and how many have indicated intent to enroll.

Support letters may be found in Attachment 13.

4. Describe how you will engage parents/guardians in the life of the school, in addition to any proposed governance roles described above. Describe how the school will build family-school partnerships to strengthen support for learning and encourage parental involvement. Describe any commitments or volunteer activities that the school will offer to parents.

Engaging parents will be a cornerstone of the daily life and culture of Vine's Prep. Each grade level team will strive to integrate parents into all aspects of their student's educational experiences. Parents and staff will actively collaborate with student leaders to successfully carry out the vision and mission of Vine's Prep, and seek opportunities to connect students' learning to local issues that are contextualized in the local community. This goal will be measured through strong parental and community participation in expeditions and Showcase Nights, parent satisfaction surveys, and parent/community volunteer hours at the school.

Parents will be involved in the leadership and decision-making within the school through opportunities to serve on the Board of Directors, representation on the school's Advisory Board and participation on school committees, just to name a few.

Parents will participate in student-led parent-teacher conferences at the end of each semester, at which time students will present portfolios of their work and discuss their progress toward meeting academic and non-academic goals. Parents can also review returned student work and homework for additional information about the curriculum and their child's progress. Parent conferences are another opportunity for involvement.

In a broader context, surveys will be a tool used on an annual basis to gauge parent satisfaction with various aspects of student learning and school operations. Data on family and parental engagement will be collected by the principal and will be reported to the Board as one measure of the school's success. The Board will use this data to ensure that Vine's Prep is meeting the needs of parents and families.