

TSCS School Parent and Family Engagement Policy



School Parent and Family Engagement Policy The Soulsville Charter School 2024-2025 School Year 07/25/2024

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, The Soulsville Charter School receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by section 1116(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

The The Soulsville Charter School agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- Involve families, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the school improvement plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of families and the school, distribute it to the families of participating children, and make the parent and family engagement policy available to the local community.
- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, for the participation of families with limited English proficiency, families with disabilities, and families of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language families understand.
- If the school improvement plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA is not satisfactory to the families of participating children, submit any family comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.

- Be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:
 Parent and Family Engagement means the participation of families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:
 - (A) families play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;
 - (B) families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;
 - (C) families are full partners in their child’s education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and
 - (D) other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA.

Description of how the school will implement required school parent and family engagement policy components:

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The Soulsville Charter School will take the following actions to involve families in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by families, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

TSCS families will have the opportunity to sign up/ volunteer to serve as a member of our Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) led by our Dean of Community Engagement. Parent/ guardians will have the opportunity to sign up during our back-to-school registration on July 27, 2024 as well as during Open House August 20, 2024. Families who sign up will be invited to various meetings and events to discuss progress and improvements for the school throughout the school year including, but not limited to:

- Monthly PTA meetings
- Weekly email update communications from the Dean of Community Engagement
- Invitations to exclusive events such as “Breakfast with the ED”

ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

The Soulsville Charter School will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all families of participating children to attend to inform them about the school’s Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the families’ requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the school-wide plan, and the school-parent compact.

(Describe/list when the school will hold the Annual Title I meeting to inform families of the requirements of Title I and the school’s participation as well as the families’ rights to be involved. The Annual Title I meeting should not be used to ask for family input, but provided as an opportunity to disseminate information and distribute copies of the revised parent and family engagement policy.)

COMMUNICATIONS

The Soulsville Charter School will take the following actions to provide families of participating children the following:

- Timely information about the Title I programs
- Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement.
- Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the families of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the families can understand:

At the Soulsville Charter School, we believe that parental support is vital for the academic and social growth of our students, and we want parents to be involved in an organized, ongoing, and timely way. Therefore, we will make all appropriate efforts to include parents in the life of the school and will encourage parents to support our efforts at home.

A copy of this plan will be distributed to all parents in the school, community partners, and posted on the school's website in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practicable, provide it in a language that parents can understand.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

The Soulsville Charter School will take the following actions to jointly develop with families of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how families, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and families will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

(Describe/List the process the schools will follow to jointly develop with families a school-parent compact.)

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The Soulsville Charter School will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support families in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

TSCS will maintain sustained partnerships with community partners who can provide our students and families access to additional resources and support. Our current partnerships are with...

- Communities in Schools
- Knowledge Quest
- UT Health Science Center South Memphis Health Hub
- Memphis Food Bank

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The Soulsville Charter School will provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of families, in the value and utility of contributions of families, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with families as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between families and the school by:

TSCS will maintain sustained partnerships with community partners who can provide our students and families access to additional resources and support. Our current partnerships are with...

- Communities in Schools - Truancy/ Attendance training
- Memphis Allies - Childhood ACEs training
- McKinney-Vento Homelessness Training
- Child Abuse/ Neglect Training led by School Counselor

The Soulsville Charter School will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as families may request by:

DISCRETIONARY SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENT

- Provide necessary literacy training for families from Title I, Part A funds if the school has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training.
 - Family Literacy and Numeracy Data Nights (one per semester)
 - Literacy Night to expose families to a variety of books across instructional level
 - Data Night for parents to understand their students progress
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences with Special Education Teachers
- Train families to enhance the engagement of other families.
 - Monthly “Family Days” in partnership with the Stax Museum of American Soul Music that include family engagement activities, giveaways and community partner resources
- Establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs.
 - Monthly PTA meetings led by our Dean of Community and Family engagement
- Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parent and family engagement activities.