



SYNERGY ACADEMIES' NCLB COMPLIANT PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

I. Introduction

Research has shown that the attitudes, behavior and achievement of children are enhanced when parents or other caregivers are involved in their children's education. To that end, **Synergy Charter Academy / Synergy Kinetic Academy / Synergy Quantum Academy** (the "LEA") has adopted this parent involvement policy in order to promote learning and provide a more positive learning experience for the students of its schools.¹ This policy has also been incorporated into the LEA's plan developed pursuant to NCLB, and submitted to the California Department of Education with the LEA's Consolidated Application.

II. Involvement in Drafting the LEA Plan

Parents of participating children will be involved in the development of the LEA plan required by NCLB. On an annual basis, the LEA will submit the LEA plan to the School Operations Committee/Parent Council for review and suggested changes before the plan is submitted to the California Department of Education ("CDE"). In addition, all parents of participating children will annually be invited to review the LEA plan and submit comments.

If the LEA plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the LEA will submit any comments from parents of participating children with the LEA plan when it is submitted to the CDE.

III. Involvement in School Review and Improvement

Parents of participating children will be involved, to the extent applicable, in the process of school review and improvement under NCLB. This includes disseminating the results of the local annual review of each school served under Title I, Part A to parents.

In addition, the parents of participating children will be invited to annually review the effectiveness of the parental involvement policy and other Title I, Part A activities and provide comments to the LEA.

¹ Within this policy, the word "parent" is employed. This word is intended to reach any caregiver of students enrolled in the LEA's school, including but not limited to, parents, guardians, grandparents, aunts, uncles, foster parents, stepparents, etc.

Identification of a school for improvement: Before the LEA identifies its school for improvement, for corrective action, or for restructuring, it shall provide the parents of all children enrolled in the school with notice of an opportunity to review the school-level data, including academic assessment data, on which the proposed identification is based. If the School Director of the school believes, or a majority of the parents of the students enrolled in such school believe, that the proposed identification is in error for statistical or other substantive reasons, the School Director may provide supporting evidence to the LEA, which shall consider that evidence before making a determination.

School plan: Parents of participating children will be involved in the development and/or revision of a school plan required of the school identified for improvement, corrective action or restructuring, which plan shall be approved by the LEA in accordance with NCLB.

Notice required after school identification: If the LEA's school is identified for improvement, corrective action or restructuring, the LEA will promptly provide to all parents of children enrolled in the school (in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand), a notice containing the following:

- An explanation of what the identification means, and how the school compares in terms of academic achievement to other elementary or secondary schools served by the LEA and the CDE;
- The reasons for the identification;
- An explanation of what the LEA or the CDE is doing to address the problem of low achievement;
- An explanation of how the parents can become involved in addressing the academic issues that caused the school to be identified for school improvement; and
- As applicable, an explanation of the parents' option to transfer their child to another public school under the control of the LEA, return to their district of residence or to obtain supplemental educational services for the child.

Information regarding corrective action taken: The LEA shall publish and disseminate information regarding any corrective action taken at a school to parents of each student enrolled in the school in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand.

Restructuring: Whenever a school fails to make adequate yearly progress after 1 full school year of corrective action or when the LEA is required to implement alternative governance, the LEA shall provide prompt notice to parents and provide parents with an adequate opportunity to comment before taking any action and to participate in developing any plan required by NCLB.

IV. Coordination, Technical Assistance, and Other Support

The LEA will provide the coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist its participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance in the following ways:

- The LEA's leadership team will collaborate to devise a timeline for parental involvement activities throughout the school year and report regularly to the Board of Directors on parent involvement opportunities.
- The LEA will develop the necessary technical assistance for planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

V. Annual Meeting

Within 60 days of the first day of school, the School shall convene an annual meeting to which all parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs are invited and encouraged to attend. The School will hold additional meetings (if necessary) to ensure the maximum parental participation, providing the same information, to be offered at flexible times, such as in the morning or evening.

The information provided at the meetings will inform parents of the School's receipt of Title I, Part A funds and the specific requirements of Title I, Part A. Additionally, parents shall be informed of their rights to be involved in Title I, Part A programs.

VI. Notice

Within 50 days of the beginning of school, the School will send home with students a notice to all parents containing, but not limited to, the following information:

- Information about Title I, Part A programs;
- An explanation of the requirements of Title I, Part A programs;
- A description of the rights parents have for participation in Title I, Part A programs;
- A description (including timing of meetings, location, etc.) of how parents can participate in the planning, review and/or improvement of the parent involvement policy and the schoolwide program.
- A description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the School, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet;
- An invitation to attend the annual meeting and additional meetings, providing information about the purpose of the meetings and the dates and times.

- A copy of the most current Parent Involvement Policy and a feedback form for parents to comment on its content.

In addition to sending this notice to parents of participating children, the School will post the information on its website.

VII. Title I, Part A Program Involvement

In order to involve parents in an organized, ongoing and timely way in the planning, review and improvement of Title I, Part A programs, the parent involvement policy and the schoolwide program plan, the School will involve parents of participating students as follows:

- The School will conduct Family Learning Nights each year where all parents will be invited to learn about the curriculum and experience the types of activities their students engage in through Title I-funded programs. Examples include Family Science Nights at Synergy Kinetic Academy and Math Counts Meeting at Synergy Charter Academy.
- The School's School Operations Committee/Parent Council will plan, review and improve Title I, Part A programs, the parent involvement policy and the schoolwide program plan.
- Parents are encouraged to participate in the Operations Committee/Parent Council, which will meet approximately every two months at a convenient location in the community served by the School and will be made up of elected parent representatives.
- Parents are encouraged to apply to become a member of the Board of Directors and invited to attend Board Meetings to share their perspective with the Board.
- If requested by parents of participating children, the School will schedule regular meetings where parents are able to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children. The School will respond to such suggestions within two weeks.
- If the schoolwide program plan is not satisfactory to parents of participating children, the School will submit any parent comments on the plan when it submits the plan to the LEA.

VIII. Building Capacity for Involvement

A. Standards, Assessments, Title I Requirements, Monitoring Progress and Improving Student Achievement

In order to ensure effective parental involvement and support a partnership among the LEA, parents and the community to improve student academic achievement, the LEA will provide the following programs to assist parents in understanding State academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, Title I requirements, and how to monitor their child's progress and work with educators to improve the academic achievement of their children (collectively referred to "Standards and Requirements"):

- The LEA will encourage parent participation with its Board of Directors.
- The LEA will include several parent representatives on its School Operations Committee/Parent Council.
- Regular meetings will be held by the LEA at each school or in other community locations to discuss how parents can work with educators to improve their child's academic achievement.
- The LEA will hold Family Learning Nights to introduce parents to the School's curriculum and its correlation to the State's academic content standards and academic achievement standards.
- Parents will be invited to attend an annual meeting to learn more about state standardized tests and how the school and parents can partner to help students succeed on those tests.

B. Helping Parents to Work with their Children

In an effort to foster parental involvement, the LEA will provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement through the following programs:

- The LEA will provide seminars on parenting skills and parent-child communication as needed.
- The school's staff will work with parents to better understand their children and the issues facing them.
- The LEA will train parents how to support their children academically.

C. Education on Parent Involvement

The LEA will annually educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and the School. The training shall take place each year during annual staff training sessions and professional development meetings held throughout the school year.

- Teachers will be encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting and Operations Committee/Parent Council meetings throughout the year.
- Teachers participate with the School's School Operations Committee/Parent Council and work closely with parent representatives.

D. Other Optional Parent Participation

The LEA will provide regular trainings for parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.

In order to maximize parental involvement and participation, the LEA will arrange school meetings at various times to enable all parents to participate in the opportunities for involvement.

The LEA will adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement.

IX. Coordination with Other Programs

The LEA shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with Head Start and public preschool and other programs and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

The LEA will coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with these programs as follows: 1) distribute information about the school to local public preschool, Head Start, and private day care providers in the community, 2) provide a school representative to speak to parents of children enrolled in these programs about the school and how to successfully help their children to transition to kindergarten, and 3) offer an orientation for incoming kindergarten students that trains parents how to help their students prepare for and succeed in kindergarten.

X. Annual Evaluation

The LEA, with the involvement of parents, shall conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this family involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the

schools served under Title I, Part A, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities under NCLB. The LEA will pay particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. This evaluation will be conducted either by a year-end meeting or by distribution of surveys. To request feedback The LEA will use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, this family involvement policy.

XI. School-Parent Compact

At the beginning of each school year, the School will enter into a School-Parent Compact with parents of participating children, which is contained in Synergy's Parent/Student Handbook that is distributed to all families annually. The School-Parent Compact will outline how parents, the entire school staff and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the School and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards.

The School Operations Committee/Parent Council will annually evaluate the effectiveness of the School-Parent Compact and provide feedback and suggestions for revision.

XII. Involvement of Parents of Limited English Proficient Students, Disabled Parents and Parents of Migratory Children

The LEA shall implement an effective means of outreach to parents of limited English proficient students to inform them regarding how they can be involved in the education of their children, and be active participants in assisting their children to attain English proficiency, achieve at high levels in core academic subjects and meet challenging State academic achievement standards and State academic content standards expected of all student. To accomplish this goal, the LEA will do the following:

- The LEA will hold regular meetings, and send notice of these meetings, for the purpose of formulating and responding to recommendations from parents of participating children.
- The LEA will provide language translators at parent meetings to the extent practicable.

The LEA will provide full opportunities for participation of parents with disabilities and parents of migratory children. To accomplish this goal, the LEA will do the following: hold meetings in disabled-accessible locations and offer other accommodations needed (to the extent practicable) for disabled parents and coordinate with local MEP programs to better serve the families of migrant students.

XIII. Notices

In accordance with NCLB, the LEA will provide the following notices to parents of children attending Title I, Part A schools:

- Annual report card;
- A notice regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers;
- The notice regarding language instruction programs;
- Any other notices required by law.

XIV. Miscellaneous

The LEA shall ensure that all information related to LEA and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

The LEA will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as requested by parents.