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Agora Cyber Charter School Parent and Family Engagement Policy PART I:

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS [Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act(ESSA)]

Agora Cyber Charter School agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- ACCS will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the engagement of parents in the school with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1116, ACCS will work to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1116(d) of the ESSA
- The school will incorporate these parent and family engagement policies into its LEA plan developed under section 1116 of the ESSA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, ACCS will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1116 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the ACCS plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1116 of the ESSA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, ACCS will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- ACCS will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A in decisions about how the 1% of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- ACCS will be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement, and expects that it will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parent and family engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—



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- (A) a parent's role in a child's education is integral to its success;*
- (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively engaged in their child's education at school;*
- (C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees (School Improvement, APTO, School Board) to assist in the education of their child;*
- (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.*

PART II: DESCRIPTION OF HOW AGORA CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT-WIDE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS [Section 1116 (a)(2), ESSA]

1. Agora Cyber Charter School will take the following actions to engage parents in the joint development of its district wide parent and family engagement plan under section 1116 of the ESSA:
 - Title I Parent meeting, open forum for additions/revisions of the Title I Parent Policy drafts & School-Parent Compact
 - For parents unable to attend the parent meeting, Federal Programs Manager will post the Parent and Family Engagement Policies & School Parent Compact on the Title I section of the school website for continuous feedback. A link to the message board posting will be emailed to all enrolled ACCS caretakers.
 - Annually review the parent and family engagement policies and make revisions based on parent recommendations

2. Agora Cyber Charter School will take the following actions to engage parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESSA:
 - School Performance Profile will be discussed at our Title I meeting
 - Parent surveys will be conducted to determine where parents would like additional supports from ACCS staff
 - Parents will take part in the ACCS School Improvement Team meetings.

3. Agora Cyber Charter School will take the following actions to conduct, with the engagement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policies in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A school. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parent and family engagement activities (with 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). The school will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policies and activities to design strategies for more effective parent and family engagement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parent and family engagement policies.



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- Parents will be given an annual parent survey.
- The Parent Engagement Advisor Team will develop a survey for all Learning Coach participants. Content included in this survey will include both multiple choice selections and comment boxes to promote feedback.
 - The Parent Engagement Advisor Team and the Federal Programs Coordinator will evaluate the survey once it is completed to design strategies for more effective parent and family engagement.
 - The results of this survey will be shared at parent workshops and through email.
- The Parent and Family Engagement Policies will be reviewed annually.
- The School-Parent Compact will be reviewed annually.

4. Agora Cyber Charter School will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parent and family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, engaged parents and families, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

- A. The school will provide assistance to parents of children served by the school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph
- the State's academic content standards,
 - the State's student academic achievement standards,
 - the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
 - the requirements of Part A,
 - how to monitor their child's progress (including where to find answer keys), and
 - how to work with educators:
 - School Performance Profiles will be discussed at our Title I meeting.
 - Learning Coach Workshops will be conducted online and throughout the state during the Fall and Spring.
 - Student and Parent Services and Resources and Guides will be made available online on our website
 - Family Mentoring Options will be provided on the website and through social media
- B. Agora Cyber Charter School will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement.
- C. Agora Cyber Charter School will, with the assistance of its parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:



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- ACCS will provide annual professional development to all staff on working with parents as equal partners (including school platform resources that are available to parents).
- Learning Coach Workshops, designed based on parent feedback, presented by the Parent Engagement Advisor's team in partnership with teachers, guidance counselors, and Agora staff and evaluated by survey at the completion of the sessions.

D. Agora Cyber Charter School will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities that *encourage* and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by providing:

- Student and Parent Services and Resources and Guides available online
- Field Trips and School sponsored events
- Box Tops for Education
- Giant/Martins/Tops A+ Rewards
- Amazon Smile Program
- Learning Coach Outreach Sessions held throughout the year

E. Agora Cyber Charter School will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent- programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

- Emails
- Posted on the school website
- Correspondence with parents from teachers
- Email announcing parent workshop schedule



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PART III: DISCRETIONARY AGORA CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

- Involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
- Providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
- Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- Training parents to enhance the engagement of other parents;
 - Resources and Guides found on website
 - APTO opportunities
 - Parent Committee Options
- In order to maximize parent and family engagement and participation in their children’s education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school;
- Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parent and family engagement;
- Establishing a Parent Teacher Organization to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs;
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parent and family engagement activities; and
- Providing other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities [under section 1118 as parents may request.]

* * * * *

PART IV. ADOPTION

The annual Title I meeting was held on October 22, 2019 and October 24, 2019.
The draft of this policy was posted on the Title I Message Board for Parent feedback.
This district Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with the following parents, Suzanne Chiamonte, Terri Latshaw and Melissa Martinelli, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in programs at Agora Cyber Charter School.

This policy was approved by the ACCS School Board on November 4, 2019 and is reviewed annually at Agora’s Title I meetings and through a parent survey.



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