

Russell Byers Charter School 4K - 6

PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Each school in its School-wide Parental Involvement Policy must establish the school's expectations for parental involvement. *[Section 1118(a)(2), ESEA.]*

The **Russell Byers Charter School** agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The charter school will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1118, the charter school will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- The charter school will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its School District of Philadelphia plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the charter school 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 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the Russell Byers Charter School's plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- The Russell Byers Charter School will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the school.
- The charter school will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out

programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

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

(A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;

(B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved 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 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.

- The charter school will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in the State of Pennsylvania.

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

[NOTE: The School-wide Parental Involvement Policy must include a description of how the school will implement or accomplish each of the following components. *[Section 1118(a)(2), ESEA.]* Regardless of the format the school chooses to use, a description of each of the following components below must be included in order to satisfy statutory requirements.]

1. The **Russell Byers Charter School** will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its school-wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:

The process starts with the Community Engagement Committee (in lieu of the Parent Advisory Committee), which is comprised of administration and parents (Parent Board Representatives and HSA President), where the information is first shared and discussed. The Community Engagement Committee shares the information with the Home and School Association and serves as a liaison with school and board leadership. The School provides information in the daily blue communication folders, weekly newsletters and via the school's website and social media.

2. The **Russell Byers Charter School** will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

Parents are invited to attend additional meetings around the School Improvement Plan (annual plan with goals and action steps submitted to the PA Department of Education), starting with the 2017-18 Plan. The information will be disseminated by the school's website, monthly calendars, additional flyers and Home and School meetings.

3. Russell Byers Charter School **will** provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

In collaboration with the Philadelphia Home and School and the Community Engagement Committee, provide workshops to parents on:

- Use of Technology and the New MMS system
 - Standardized Testing
 - Strategies to help your child with Literacy and Mathematics
4. The **Russell Byers Charter School** will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following programs:
 - Community Engagement Committee
 - Parent Board Representatives
 - Home and School Association
 5. The **Russell Byers Charter School** will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A programs. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement 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 charter school will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

There will be a mid year survey sent electronically (and available in paper format) which parents will be asked to complete. The survey will be designed by a committee comprised of staff and parents and will basically be asking, "How are we doing?" From the responses to the survey, which will be compiled by the same committee, we will have insights as to what we can change, enhance, or improve upon.

There will also be a Community Engagement Committee mailbox in the front lobby for parents to give feedback to the school and to voice concerns on a regular basis.

1. The **Russell Byers Charter School** will build the school's and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:
 - A. The **Russell Byers Charter School** will, with the assistance of the School District, provide assistance to parents, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --
 - the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
 - the requirements of Title I-Part A

- how to monitor their child’s progress
- how to work with educators

There will be two “Back to School” nights on Wednesday, September 7, 2016 for parents with students in grades 4K-2, and Thursday, September 8, 2016 for parents with students in grades 3-6. At that time the Head of School will inform parents about Title I and their right to be involved in their children’s education.

- B. The **Russell Byers Charter School** will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:

Offering workshops such as the following during the year:

DRA, MAP & AimsWeb	Gr. 4K-6 parents
Understanding the PSSA Test	Gr. 3-6 parents
School Improvement Planning	Gr. 4K-6 parents
Developing Our MS Vision	Gr. 4K-6 parents

The **Russell Byers Charter School** will, with the assistance of the School District, 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:

Working in conjunction with the Home and School to reach out to parents.
 Disseminating all information from Community Engagement Committee meetings to parents via newsletters and flyers.
 Providing workshops for parents around educational and parenting issues.
 Continuation of meetings for Parents of Students with Disabilities

- C. The **Russell Byers Charter School** will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement 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, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

Providing access to the following programs and inviting parents to join any activities or workshops around these programs:

- The DIBELS
- Response to Intervention
- 4sight Testing

- E. The **Russell Byers 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 in a language the parents can understand:

Information is available to the parents via:

- Monthly School Calendar
- Daily Communication Folder
- Home and School Association Meetings
- RBCS Website & Social Media
- Weekly Newsletters

PART III. SCHOOL WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

- 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
- Training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- In order to maximize parental involvement 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 parental involvement;
- Establishing a Community Engagement Committee to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and
- Providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

PART IV. ADOPTION: This **Russell Byers Charter School** Parental Involvement Policy has been approved by the RBCS Board of Trustees, and has been developed jointly with and agreed upon by its parents.

The school will distribute this policy to all parents on or before December 1, 2016.

_____ (*Signature of CEO*)

_____ *November 17, 2016*