



Ethos Classical 2023 Family Engagement Policy

What is Family Engagement?

Family Engagement means the participation of family members in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning, behavior, and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) That families play an integral role in assisting in their child's learning.
- (B) That families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- (C) That 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.
- (D) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).



About the Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Ethos Classical Charter School has developed this family engagement policy that establishes the expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and family partnerships. This plan will describe Ethos' commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals.

- 85% proficiency on state assessments
- 100% growth overall in reading and mathematics

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and enjoy school more. Title I, Part A provides for substantive family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of ESSA contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve family members in their children's education. Ethos Classical Charter School will work to ensure that the required school-level family engagement policies meet the requirements of federal law. Additionally, money is budgeted for Family Engagement meetings and activities. At minimum of 5,000 will be used.

Jointly Developed

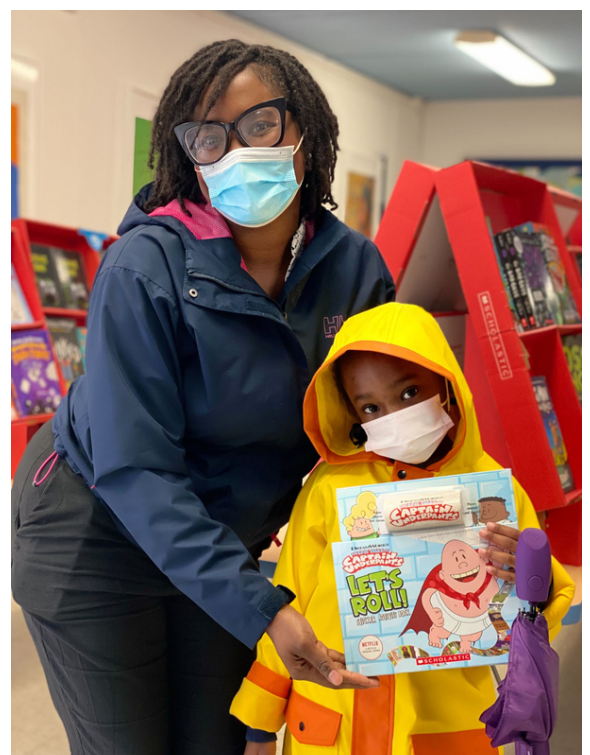
Throughout the development of Ethos Classical Charter School, families were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to cultivate this family engagement policy for the 2022-2023 school year. Ethos sent emails and family newsletters to enrolled families informing them of Ethos team events and meetings. During such events, families reviewed and discussed the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP), the Comprehensive Support and Improvement School's Plan, and the Targeted Support and Improvement School's Plan.

Additionally, family representatives provided suggestions for the family engagement policy and how to help our scholars achieve challenging state academic standards. Together, Ethos families, staff, and scholars will jointly fulfill our school-parent compact that outlines collective responsibility for improved student academic outcomes.
#WeKeepOurPeople

Upon final revision, the Ethos' family engagement policy was incorporated into the CLIP which is submitted to the state. Families are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time at the family advisory committee meetings (i.e. Joy Squad) or by submitting written comments to the Head of Schools. All feedback received by May 2022 was considered for revisions to this policy.

Ethos plans to distribute this policy in front office area, disseminate it during Joy squad meetings held in the fall, and email the link to all families in a format and language they can understand.

Ethos Classical will conduct its' annual Title I meeting in October 2022 to inform parents of the requirements of Title I, Ethos' participation, and their rights under Title I.



BUILDING CAPACITY

Ethos Classical Charter School will build partnerships between its Title I families and community with the goal of developing mutual support for student achievement. To develop capacity for this support, Ethos will implement a variety of family and community engagement initiatives. The Ethos Joy Squad is one such initiative. Meeting and support of the Joy Squad is offered by the Director of Scholar and Family Services. The Joy Squad is an opportunity for families to partner with Ethos staff to address academic goals and at-home learning activities.

Families – Ethos Classical Charter School will provide families with information about the overall Title I program and its requirements. They will help families understand academic expectations for student learning and progress. Ethos Classical also offers assistance to parents in understanding use of its online student information system (i.e. PowerSchool and Kickboard) and other digital resources (i.e. Zearn and Lexia). Notifications about these opportunities will be posted in weekly school newsletter---The Joy Factor, and shared through school messaging systems, and social media postings. In addition, the front office contains resources and materials such as parent guides, study guides, and practice assessments, and materials for at-home learning. Hard copies of these materials are also available at all Title I schools, including copies in Spanish.

Of School Staff – Ethos Classical Charter School will host meetings during the school year with school leaders and staff to discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community.

To ensure that information related to families, Ethos Classical is required to send home information to family members in an understandable language and uniform format. At the beginning of the year, school staff will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents' preferred language, where applicable, and providing interpreters at parent events.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEANINGFUL CONSULTATION

Input and suggestions from parents, family members, and community partners are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. All families of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to attend the meetings opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.

Ethos Joy Squad

The Family Advisory Committee is called the "Joy Squad". The Joy Squad meets monthly to discuss a variety of topics and share honest feedback. Families eligible to receive Title I services are invited to attend and participate in school events/activities.

Family Content Night

Families have the opportunity to learn about the curriculum and gain at home resources to support scholar learning. Families are also asked to provide feedback to the school team in order to express concerns, pose questions, and share constructive commentary.



PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EVALUATION

Each year, Ethos Classical will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this family engagement policy and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual family survey.

Beginning in April, we will send home a survey and email a link to the survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on school website and social media platforms.

In addition to the annual survey, we will also use a School Improvement Forum to facilitate group discussions to discuss the needs parents of children eligible to receive Title I services to design strategies for more effective family engagement. The findings from the school forums and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement policies.

ACCESSIBILITY

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the Director of Scholar and Family Services will ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children including providing information and school reports in a language parents can understand.

The parent and family engagement policy is written in an understandable and uniform format, to the extent practicable. Upon request, it can be translated and provided in an alternative language.

Throughout the school year, Ethos offers various in person and online family meetings. All online meetings are conducted via zoom and recorded. The recorded meeting content is distributed to all families for increased accessibility and to combat any transportation or childcare barriers which could prevent family participation and feedback. At least 2 regular family meetings occur (1 morning and 1 afternoon) on a monthly basis. Families can request other types of meetings (i.e. small group, individual, special interest, etc.) by contacting the Director of Scholar and Family Services or Head of Schools.