ETHOS CLASSICAL

A Joyful, Rigorous K–8 Community

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

SY 2026–2027

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Ethos Classical Charter School receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore jointly develops with, agrees on with, and distributes to parents and family members of participating children a written Parent and Family Engagement Policy that contains the information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This policy establishes Ethos Classical's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and describes how the school will implement specific family engagement activities. It is incorporated into the school's Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) submitted to the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE).

Ethos Classical Agrees to Implement the Following Requirements Outlined by Section 1116

- Ethos Classical will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members across the school. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
- Ethos Classical will ensure that its school-level Parent and Family Engagement Policy meets the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA and includes, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with federal law.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A family engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, Ethos Classical will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, who are experiencing foster care or housing instability, who are economically disadvantaged, or who are of any racial or ethnic minority background — 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 parents understand.
- If the school's Title I, Part A plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, Ethos Classical will submit any parent comments with the plan when it is submitted to GaDOE.
- Ethos Classical is governed by the following definition of family engagement, consistent with Section 8101 of the ESSA, and expects that its programs, activities, and procedures reflect this definition:

  Family engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring: (A) parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning; (B) parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; (C) 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; and (D) other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA.

Jointly Developed

Ethos Classical involves parents and family members in jointly developing the school's Title I plan and this Parent and Family Engagement Policy, and in the development and review of school improvement plans, through the following structures:

- Joy Squad — a monthly meeting for all families, K-8, that reviews academic priorities and gives feedback on the upcoming school year goals and structures.
- Family Academic Council — a standing parent advisory body that reviews academic priorities, provides input on the CLIP, and gives feedback on the upcoming school year goals and structures.
- Joy Council — a parent and family leadership body that partners with school leadership on school culture, communication, and family-facing decisions.
- Pops of Joy — a dedicated engagement group for fathers and father figures that provides input on family engagement design and participation barriers.
- Annual family surveys and CLIP feedback sessions, through which families review drafts of the Title I plan, School Improvement Plan, and this policy and submit comments prior to submission to GaDOE.

Technical Assistance

Ethos Classical's Federal Programs Director provides the following coordination, technical assistance, and support to build the capacity of school staff to plan and implement effective family engagement activities that improve student academic achievement:

- Dedicated Family Engagement Coordinator and Manager of Family Engagement roles to support families with accessing school resources.
- Ongoing coaching for grade-level teams and advisors on communicating student progress and instructional expectations to families.
- Coordination with the Chief Academic Officer's office to align family engagement activities (Family Academic Council, Joy Council, Pops of Joy) with instructional priorities in reading, math, and school culture.
- Consultation with community partners, tutoring providers, and philanthropic supporters — including partners supporting the Brilliant Figures high-dosage math tutoring initiative — to expand the resources available to support family engagement.

Annual Evaluation

Ethos Classical, with the meaningful engagement of parents and family members, conducts an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Parent and Family Engagement Policy in improving the academic quality of the school. The evaluation includes:

- Review of family engagement data, iReady growth data, and TNTP survey results to assess whether family engagement activities are associated with improved academic outcomes and school climate.
- Identification of barriers to greater participation by parents — with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, are experiencing foster care or housing instability, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background.
- Identification of the needs of parents and family members in supporting their children's learning, including strategies to strengthen school-family communication and interactions with teachers and staff.
- A findings report presented to the Family Academic Council and Chief Suite, used to design evidence-based strategies for more effective family engagement and to revise this policy as needed.

The Federal Programs Director is responsible for coordinating the evaluation, with the Family Academic Council serving as the primary body through which parents and family members review findings and shape resulting revisions.

Reservation of Funds

Ethos Classical involves parents and family members of children served in its Title I, Part A program in decisions about how the required 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for family engagement is spent. The proposed family engagement budget is shared with the Family Academic Council for input prior to finalization, and not less than 90 percent of the reserved 1 percent is directed to family engagement activities that directly serve Ethos Classical families.

Coordination of Services

Ethos Classical coordinates and integrates family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant federal, state, and local programs, including:

- Coordination with Fulton County DFCS and application of the school's GaDOE Foster Care Transportation Plan to remove barriers to engagement and stability for students and families in foster care.
- Coordination with community-based tutoring and enrichment partners, including East Point Parks & Rec and the Brilliant Figures math tutoring program serving Grades 4–7, to keep families informed of and engaged in supplemental academic supports.
- Transition supports for families as Ethos Classical grows into a multi-campus model (Elementary K–4 and Middle School 5–8), including communication and orientation activities to support families through campus transitions.

Building Capacity of Parents

Ethos Classical, with the assistance of its staff, builds parents' capacity for strong family engagement by providing materials and training on topics including literacy, use of technology, and the challenging state academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of Title I Part A, how to monitor their child's progress, and how to work with educators. Activities include:

- Distribution of the K–8 Family Curriculum Guide, which explains the curricula used in each content area — including LifeLong Readers, Reading Reconsidered, Leap Math, STEMscopes, Studies Weekly, and WriteScore — so families can support learning at home.
- Academic focused Morning Joy sessions that walk families through iReady and other progress-monitoring data in an understandable format.
- Workshops and events hosted through Pops of Joy, Joy Council, and the Family Academic Council on topics such as literacy strategies, math support at home, and navigating school systems.
- Joychella and other community celebrations that pair family engagement with joyful, low-barrier opportunities for families to connect with the school.
- Online resources and take-home materials provided in an understandable and uniform format, and in alternative formats or languages upon request, including ParentSquare and the Ethos Classical App.

Building Capacity of School Staff

Ethos Classical, with the assistance of its staff and parents, educates teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, school leaders, and other staff in the value and utility of parent contributions and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners. Activities include:

- New-staff and annual professional learning on family engagement expectations, culturally responsive communication, and working with Family Academic Council, Joy Council, and Pops of Joy.
- Staff training on communicating student data (including iReady results) to families in a clear, accessible, and strengths-based manner.
- Guidance for staff on providing school and family communications in a format and language families can understand, including alternative formats upon request.

Building Capacity for Involvement

In meaningful consultation with parents, Ethos Classical also undertakes the following discretionary activities under Section 1116(e) of the ESSA to build parents' capacity for engagement:

- Involving parents, through the Family Academic Council and Joy Squad, in shaping training for teachers and school leaders on family engagement.
- Paying reasonable and necessary expenses — including transportation and child care support — associated with family engagement activities, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and trainings.
- Training parent leaders within Classroom Parents, Pops of Joy and Joy Council to help engage other families.
- Offering meetings and conferences at a variety of times to maximize participation for working families.
- Maintaining a districtwide parent advisory structure — the Family Academic Council — to advise on all matters related to family engagement in the Title I, Part A program.
- Developing roles for community-based organizations, tutoring partners, and businesses — such as Brilliant Figures partners and Joychella sponsors — in family engagement activities.

Adoption

This Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on by, parents and family members of children participating in Ethos Classical's Title I, Part A program, as evidenced by review and input from Joy Squad, the Family Academic Council, Joy Council, and Pops of Joy.

This policy was adopted by Ethos Classical Charter School on July 1, 2026 and will be in effect for the 2026–2027 school year. The school will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before August 1, 2026.

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Danielle Mack, CEO/Superintendent

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Date