

**Community of Peace Academy  
Parent and Family Engagement Plan  
2021-2022**

Community of Peace Academy is committed to the goal of fostering academic excellence and character development through education of the whole child. Parents are the primary educators of their children and important partners in their children's success. CPA's Family and Parent Engagement Plan is designed to empower them to fulfill this primary role.

**Part I. District Expectations**

Community of Peace Academy agrees to implement the following requirements:

1. CPA will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools, 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.
2. Consistent with section 1116, CPA will work with its schools 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 Home-School compact consistent with section 1116(d) of the ESSA.
3. In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements, to the greatest extent practicable CPA and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of *all* parents, including parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, parents of migratory children, parents who are economically disadvantaged, and parents of all racial/ethnic backgrounds, 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 the parents' preferred language.
4. CPA will incorporate this district wide Parent and Family Engagement Plan into its district plan developed under section 1112 of the ESSA.
5. If CPA's plan for Title I, Part A, found in the State Educational Record View and Submission (SERVS), developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, CPA will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the Minnesota State Department of Education.

6. If CPA's Title I, Part A, allocation exceeds \$500,000, CPA 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 90 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
7. The school district will be governed by the following definition of the term "parent": Parent includes legal guardian or other person standing in place of a parent (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the child's welfare). At CPA, a legal guardian or other person standing in place of a parent is referred to as the child's Mentor.
8. 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 1116 of the ESEA.

## **Part II. Description of How the District Will Implement Required Components**

### 1. CPA will engage parents and families in developing/revising the district policy.

CPA has a Parent Involvement Committee on which parents of Title I students serve. Further, as a charter school, Community of Peace Academy is an independent school district governed by a Teacher/Parent/Community Member Board that oversees all of the business of the school. Three parent members serve on the Board of Directors. The Parent Involvement Committee annually reviews and revises the Parent and Family Engagement Plan, and brings it to the Board for final review and approval.

### 2. CPA will take the following actions to engage the parents and families in jointly developing the district Title I plan [Section 1112] which is in the SERVS application and the development and review of the Schoolwide or Title I Targeted Assistance Plan. If applicable the Comprehensive Support and Improvement and the Targeted Support and Improvement plan in the schools' identified for improvement plans. [Section 1111(D) (1)(2)]

As a charter school, Community of Peace Academy is an independent school district governed by a Teacher/Parent/Community Member Board that oversees all of the business of the school. Three parent members serve on the Board of Directors. The Schoolwide Program Oversight Committee is the Board Committee responsible for annual review and development of the Title I Plan. Parents of Title I students serve on the Schoolwide Program Oversight Committee. The Schoolwide Program Oversight Committee brings the Title I Plan to the Board for final review and approval.

3. CPA will coordinate technical assistance and other support that is necessary to build the capacity of staff in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. This could include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders and philanthropic organizations or individuals with experience in effectively engaging families in education.

CPA employs African American, Hmong, Karen and Latino Family and Community Engagement Specialists who provide family outreach as well as support and assistance to staff members in engaging and working with all families. CPA utilizes support and resources from the Minnesota Department of Education in parent and family engagement. CPA engages and refers families to the PACER Center for support and advocacy.

4. CPA will coordinate and integrate with federal, state and local programs, including public preschool programs, to implement effective parent and family engagement strategies that improve student achievement and school performance.

Preschool 4 Peace, a preschool for four and five year olds, operates on site as part of CPA Elementary School. CPA maintains communication with area Headstart programs regarding CPA's Preschool and Kindergarten programs.

5. CPA 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 policy (programs/activities) in improving the academic achievement of Title I students and the schools.

Reviewing and evaluating the parent and family engagement activities/programs.

- a. Identify barriers and the needs of parents and family members that keep them from participating in their child's education especially the economically disadvantaged, disabled, limited English proficiency or any racial or ethnic minority.

- b. Identify the needs of the Title I parents and family members to assist the learning of their children and the teachers and school staff.
- c. Identify strategies to support successful school and family interactions.

Annually in spring a Parent Satisfaction Survey is sent to all CPA Parents. The survey addresses all aspects of the school program as well as parent engagement, home/school communication, and school safety. Parents also have an opportunity to provide open-ended comments. Native language support in completing the survey is offered.

- 6. CPA will use the findings of the evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement as necessary and to revise the parent and family engagement policy as necessary.

Results of this survey are shared with the Parent Involvement Committee, Board of Directors, included in the Annual Report. Results are used to inform parent and family engagement strategies and revisions to the Parent and Family Engagement Plan, and to assist in ongoing school improvement efforts.

- 7. CPA will involve parents in activities at the charter school. This could be establishing a parent advisory board that represents the population of Title I parents and family members, that develops, evaluates and reviews or revises the parent and family engagement policy.

CPA actively seeks to involve parents in the school community. In addition to the involvement of parents on the Parent Involvement Committee, the Schoolwide Program Oversight Committee and the Board of Directors, CPA engages in the following activities:

Included in the back to school registration materials is an invitation for all parents to complete the necessary paperwork to serve as a volunteer and/or a chaperone for field trips.

CPA has a long-standing tradition of conducting Home Visits annually to all children in grades PreK through 11. At the Home Visit, teachers review the Home School Compact and the Staff and Family Commitment Pledge. Parents are introduced to resources including the Family Handbook, School website and Parent Portal, as well as grade-specific resources such as the class website. Native language interpreters participate in home visits as needed. This year, Home Visits will be conducted virtually due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

CPA conducts several Parent Night events each school year. Parent Night events are designed to inform parents about academic standards, curriculum and assessments;

how parents can support their children's learning at school, and other information such including but not limited to resources for safe use of technology, the college application and Financial aid process, and resources in the community.

8. CPA will involve parents and family members of the children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

All three of CPA's schools – CPA Elementary, CPA Middle School and CPA High School – are Title I schools. As a charter school, Community of Peace Academy is an independent school district governed by a Teacher/Parent/Community Member Board that oversees all of the business of the school. Three parent members serve on the Board of Directors. The Schoolwide Program Oversight Committee is the Board Committee responsible for annual review and development of the Title I Plan, including the Title I budget. Parents of Title I students serve on the Schoolwide Program Oversight Committee. The Schoolwide Program Oversight Committee brings the Title I Plan to the Board for final review and approval.

### **Part III. Accessibility**

In carrying out the requirements of parent and family engagement of Title I, to the extent practicable CPA will provide full opportunities for the participation of all parents, including parents of children with limited English proficiency, parents of children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in the parent's preferred language.

CPA employs three school social workers along with African American, Hmong, Karen and Latino Family and Community Engagement Specialists who provide outreach to all families. Supports provided include preferred language interpretation and translation, transportation to school meetings and events, advocacy for families and support and assistance to staff in support of parent engagement and involvement.

CPA has a Special Education Parent Advisory Council that meets at least annually to provide parents with information and resources related to special education and supporting their child's school success.

**Part IV. Adoption**

The Community of Peace Academy Parent and Family Engagement Plan has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I programs.

The CPA Parent and Family Engagement Plan will be in effect for the period of the 2018-2019 school year.

CPA will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I children and make it available to the community.