



## Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Venture Academy recognizes that parent and family engagement in the educational process is a vital and positive strategy for student success and the advancement of the quality of education. Venture encourages parents and family members to participate in the design and implementation of the programs and activities provided by the school in order to increase the effectiveness of the school's Title I program in helping students meet state and local achievement standards. Schoolwide, Venture Academy encourages family engagement through open communication, volunteering in school or extracurricular activities, academic support in the home, opportunities to participate in decision making, and collaborative learning experiences between the school and community.

The following Parent and Family Engagement Policy—created in consultation with parents, and in conjunction with section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (Elementary and Secondary Education Act)—sets forth the parameters and conditions for parent and family engagement in the educational programs at Venture Academy which are supported in part by Title I program funds.

Venture Academy seeks annual feedback with regard to the effectiveness of parent and family engagement through a survey conducted each spring. This survey is provided to the families of all Venture students. The data collected from this survey is analyzed by the school's administrative team and Board of Directors and serves to direct Venture Academy's annual goals and to revise our policies and strategies for more effective family engagement.

Venture Academy recognizes that many barriers may affect or limit the engagement of parents and families in the educational process. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Economic disadvantage
- Learning and/or physical disabilities
- Communication barriers
- Language barriers
- Time Conflicts

In order to mitigate such barriers and to promote Parent and Family Involvement, Venture Academy shall:

- convene an *annual meeting* to explain the Title I program to parents and inform them of their opportunity to be involved in the program;

- be flexible in scheduling meetings to meet parents' needs. Title I funds may be used to pay *related expenses* such as child care, transportation or home visits;
- involve parents, in an organized, ongoing and timely way, in *planning, reviewing, and improving (including dissenting views)* the school's programs supported in part by Title I funds;
- provide *timely information* about its programs to parents and families; describe the curricula, the student assessments and proficiency levels students are expected to meet; provide opportunities for regular meetings, such as Student Led Conferences, where parents can provide input, and teachers may respond promptly to parent suggestions.

In order to build capacity for involvement, the Venture Academy staff will provide assistance to parents and families in such areas as understanding the State's content standards and student performance standards and other associated assessments.

Venture staff members will also provide parents and families with information as to how they can work with staff to improve the performance of their children and consult with teachers as to how they can participate in decisions relating to the education of their children. This information will be shared at the annual meeting mentioned as well as in newsletters and on the web site.

Venture Academy will provide additional materials and trainings to help parents and families work with their children to improve achievement. Materials will be distributed by such methods as e-mail, written notices, and/or handbooks.

Venture Academy will ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities, is sent to the home of participating children in the language used in such homes. The Academy will also provide opportunities for the participation of parents and families with limited English proficiency or with disabilities, including providing information and school profiles in a language and format that parents understand.

Venture Academy will provide, upon request, information to parents and families regarding the professional qualifications of their student's teacher. Parents and families may refer to the Venture Academy website, <http://www.venturelearning.org>, for more information about teachers and staff.

The attached compact, developed with input from parents and families, will be distributed to all participating families as a means of clarifying basic expectations of the school and the families it serves.

# School Parent Compact

The staff members at Venture Academy, and the parents of the students participating in programs funded by Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), understand that this compact outlines how the parents, the school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement including meeting the State's high academic standards.

This school-parent compact is in effect during the school year 2018-2019.

## School Responsibilities

Venture Academy staff will provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet the State's academic achievement standards as follows:

- Teaching the curriculum
- Using effective teaching strategies, including active pedagogy as used by Expeditionary Learning Schools
- Using differentiated instructional strategies
- Acknowledging and taking advantage of different learning styles
- Providing a safe learning environment for all children to learn

Teachers will provide parents an initial progress report early in the semester and formal feedback at least once each semester regarding their child's academic achievement. Teachers will also discuss progress at student-led conferences at least once each semester. Staff members will be available to meet with parents for additional conferences where necessary or otherwise appropriate. Any parent needing an alternative schedule for conferences can call the school to make other arrangements.

Parents may work with the teacher, assistant, or parent crew leader to work out mutually agreeable volunteer time. Volunteer tasks may include but are not limited to:

- Reading with children
- Working individually with children
- Helping students complete assignments

## Parent Responsibilities

Parents will support their children's learning by:

- Helping maintain regular attendance
- Making sure that homework is completed
- Assisting where appropriate in making decisions relating to their child's education
- Attending student-led parent conferences
- Keeping communication open by promptly reading all the notices from the school
- Providing feedback on programs and practices

## **Student Responsibilities**

Students will support their learning by:

- Attending school regularly and on time
- Completing assignments and homework
- Bringing homework and supplies to school each day
- Working to the best of their ability
- Working cooperatively with classmates, teachers and staff
- Respecting themselves, others, and the school
- Following all school rules
- Accepting responsibility for their own actions