



**North Carolina Cyber Academy
Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy
2022-2023**

North Carolina Cyber Academy Board of Directors recognizes that a child’s education is the shared responsibility of both the school and family. NCCA desires to deliver a high-quality educational program for all of our students. We want to ensure that each student is provided with equitable opportunities to experience multiple levels of success and to maximize their potential. The school, in collaboration with families, shall establish programs and practices that enhance parent involvement and reflect the specific needs of students and their families.

A. DEFINITION OF PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

For the purposes of this policy, the term “parent and family engagement” means the participation of parents, guardians, and other family members in regular, two-way and meaningful communication involving student learning and other school activities, including ensuring the following:

- a. that parents and family members are vital in supporting their child’s learning;
- b. that parents and family members 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 parents and family members are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on an advisory committee to assist in the education of their child; and
- d. that the school uses events to support parent and family engagement in the Title I programs.

B. PURPOSE AND OPERATION OF TITLE I PROGRAM

The Title I program is a federally supported program that offers assistance to educationally and economically disadvantaged children to help ensure they receive an equitable, high-quality, well-rounded education and meet the schools challenging academic standards. The Title I program delivers instructional activities and supportive services to eligible students over and above those provided by the regular school program.

NCCA operates a schoolwide Title I program based upon federal eligibility criteria. The schoolwide program offers comprehensive support to improve opportunities for all students to meet academic standards.

C. ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM EVALUATION

Each year, North Carolina Cyber Academy will invite parents to attend a meeting to explain parental rights, discuss the programs and activities to be provided with Title I funds, and solicit input on the Title I program and this policy. In addition, school officials will provide parents and family members a meaningful opportunity annually to evaluate the content and effectiveness of the Title I program

and the parent and family engagement policies and plans. Information collected from these proceedings will be used to revise Title I programs and parent and family engagement plans. The annual meeting will be held at the beginning of school informational sessions. Parents are notified within the learning platform, through email, text and social media.

D. PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

The board believes that the involvement of parents and family members in the design and implementation of the Title I program will increase the effectiveness of the program and contribute significantly to the success of the children. All school personnel shall strive to conduct outreach to parents and family members and involve them in activities throughout the school year.

School leadership shall ensure that this parent and family engagement policy and plan is developed with, agreed upon, and annually distributed to parents and family members of participating students.

In addition, school officials and Title I school personnel shall do the following:

- a. Involve parents and family members in the development of our Title I program by including parents on advisory committees and any other committees relative to our Title I program. Parents will have opportunities to provide input on the development of annual surveys, review school data and results, and provide recommendations for parent and family engagement activities and events.
- b. Provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities that are designed to improve student academic achievement and school performance. As a virtual school, we commit to the following:
 - i. provide information for new parents and families.
 - ii. ensure ongoing communication with parents through the learning platform.
 - iii. communicate in the home language.
 - iv. conduct parent and family events at multiple locations throughout North Carolina.
 - v. provide perception surveys for feedback and input.
 - vi. conduct an annual Title I Parent and Family Engagement Meeting to seek input and discuss Title I programming
 - vii. provide equitable opportunities for parents, families, and students to participate in activities regardless of an individual's disability and/or English language proficiency
 - viii. encourage parents, families, and community members to provide input and participate in ways to improve the school and programs
 - ix. organize and maintain a Parent Advisory Council
 - x. provide notification of the North Carolina School Report Card.
- c. Coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies in the Title I program to the extent feasible and appropriate with parental engagement strategies established in other federal, state, and local laws and programs. The school offers face-to-face and virtual opportunities for parents and families to attend curriculum events, conferences, and family events in multiple locations and at various times to promote parent and family participation. The school provides forums and/or question and answer sessions for parents as one additional way to identify specific challenges and to assure assistance is timely. The school will work to keep parents and family members informed of academic content, accountability

models, local and state assessments, and required student performance standards. The school will provide ongoing opportunities for all of our parents and families to receive information and support throughout the year, regardless of an individual's disability and/or English language proficiency.

- d. Parents and family members will be provided opportunities to be active participants in the review and evaluation of programming through ongoing surveys, parent and family face-to-face and virtual meetings, ongoing parent and family events, and representation on the advisory council. To assure all parents are provided equitable access for participation, sessions will be provided virtually and face to face at varied times to allow for participation. Translation services will be available.

The school will use these findings to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and revise, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policy.

In order to continually improve the academic quality of our school and assist students with meeting the school's academic standards, parents and families will be involved in the annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of our school's Parent and Family Engagement Policy and program. This evaluation shall identify the following:

- i. barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by this section (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);
 - ii. the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers, and;
 - iii. strategies to support successful school and family interactions.
- e. Opportunities for parents and families are ongoing and begin prior to the academic year. Parents and families are provided information and training sessions to become familiar with their child's curriculum, which includes the standards being taught, and the assessments utilized to measure student growth and mastery. Sessions will also be available to introduce and train parents and families on our virtual learning platform, and the details surrounding live lessons or live instruction.
 - f. Parents have immediate access to teachers and staff using the learning platform. Communication can be entered to a specific staff member or to multiple staff. The system provides a messaging system and email to assure contact is accurate and communication is timely. Within the learning platform, parents and families have access to administration, teachers, and staff. Parents and families may request to schedule meetings that will allow them the opportunity to share feedback and provide suggestions regarding their child's educational experience. Once a meeting is requested, the school may provide virtual meetings through the classroom format to allow parents and families to discuss educational decisions.

E. SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HIGH STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

As a component of the parent and family engagement policy, the school will collaborate with parents in families in the development of with parents a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a

partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards.

This compact will:

- a. Describe the school's responsibility to provide a high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables our students to demonstrate mastery of content standards. Each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning by
 - i. ensuring that their child has a responsible and supportive learning coach.
 - ii. accessing the learning platform regularly to monitor and review content standards, task completion, and performance measures.
 - iii. communicating regularly with their child's teacher, expressing concerns, and requesting additional resources and support when needed.
- b. Address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis. Our school will facilitate and/or provide
 - i. Parent-teacher conferences throughout the school year to discuss student progress and achievement.
 - ii. Access to monitor current student progress via our learning platform. Teachers will also provide progress reports throughout the year on student performance.
 - iii. In addition, our school will administer perception surveys throughout the year, and host virtual discussions with parents and families to address concerns, perspectives, and ideas to enhance their child's educational experience.
 - iv. Reasonable access to staff. All staff members will provide their contact information to parents and families. Parents can request a teacher conference through the learning management program as needed.
 - v. Parents and families will have opportunities to volunteer to assist with events associated with their child's educational experience. and participate in their child's class and observation of class activities. Teachers may also invite parents and families to observe presentations and/or live lessons.

F. BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

To ensure the engagement of our parents and families, our school will provide a collaborative and supportive environment. Our school

- a. shall provide assistance to parents in understanding academic standards, state and local academic assessments, requirements of Title I, and how to monitor a child's progress and work. This information shall be provided by the beginning of the year orientation provided by the principal. The orientation will be posted on our school's website as a reference for future questions.
- b. shall provide resources to assist parents and families with the necessary materials and training needed to effectively monitor, support, and improve their child's progress. Our school will provide opportunities for parents and families to receive information and discuss best practices for supporting their child's academic progress, and their overall mental, emotional, and social well-being.
- c. enhance the quality of engagement with our parents and families by demonstrating awareness and appreciation of the diverse perspectives and cultural backgrounds represented within the community we serve. Staff will be provided with opportunities to participate in professional development sessions that focus on strategies and best practices to communicate, support and maximize the engagement of our diverse population of parents and families.

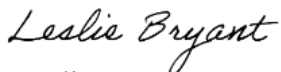
- d. shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to parents in a format and, to the extent practical, in a language the parents can understand. Interpreters will be provided for parent-teacher conferences when necessary.

G. ADOPTION

The North Carolina Cyber Academy Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Procedures have been developed/revised jointly with, various district and school-based leadership, and agreed upon by parents as evidenced by their comments of feedback.

The Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Procedures were developed/revised by North Carolina Cyber Academy on 8/15/2022 and will be in effect for the period of 2022–2023 school year. The school will distribute these Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Procedures to all parents and make it available to the community on or before 10/01/2022.

Signature of Title I Authorized Representative



Leslie Bryant
Student Services and Community Engagement Officer
August 15, 2022