

UME Prep Eagle Commitment to Excellence Compact

This Compact is made between UME Preparatory Academy, a college preparatory public charter school organized and existing under the laws of the State of Texas, the student, and the parent/guardian in pursuit of a rigorous college preparatory education and leadership development for the academic year. Furthermore, UME Preparatory Academy is a Targeted Assistance, Title I campus.

UME Preparatory Academy and the parents of the students participating in Title I Targeted Assistance activities, services, and programs funded by Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (participating children), agree that this compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the 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 that will help children achieve the State's high standards.

This school-parent compact is in effect during the 2014 – 2015 school year.

We believe that every child ...

- Has the capacity to learn, grow, and develop into a knowledgeable, reflective, caring, ethical, and contributing citizen.
- Must have access to the very best programs and practices a school can offer.
- Must be engaged in learning that is relevant, challenging, integrative, and exploratory.
- Thrives academically, socially, and emotionally in a democratic learning environment where trust and respect are paramount and where family and community are actively involved.
- Faces significant life choices and needs support in making wise and healthy decisions.
- Deserves educators who are prepared to work with this age group, who are themselves lifelong learners and who are committed to their own ongoing professional development and growth.

Therefore, UME Prep is committed to developing a school-family partnership where students can thrive under the guidance and leadership of dedicated educators partnering with the child's first and best teachers – their parents!

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOOL

UME Prep is committed to the following:

1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet the State's student academic achievement standards as follows:
 - Using academic learning time efficiently;
 - Respecting cultural, racial and ethnic differences;
 - Implementing a curriculum aligned to State Standards;
 - Offering high quality instruction in all content areas; and

- Providing instruction by highly qualified teachers and if this does not occur, notifying parents as required by the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act;
2. UME Preparatory Academy will hold parent-teacher conferences (at least annually in elementary schools) during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement. Specifically, those conferences will be held after the first and third eight week period for students failing courses for the following groups of students:
 - Students participating in the Title I Targeted Assistance program
 - Students who are failing core or non-core courses

Note: Parents and Teachers can request a conference for any student.

3. Provide parents with frequent reports on their child's progress. Specifically, the school will provide reports as follows:
 - Provide continual access to student grades via the parent portal (teachers will post grades according to student handbook policy);
 - Provide printed progress reports after every eight week period for all students (which parents will be required to sign and return to teachers);
 - STAAR assessment results will be provided within ten days of receipt unless otherwise directed by State guidelines;
 - Provide timely feedback on graded assignments;
 - Hold an annual meeting to inform parents of the school's participation in the Targeted Assistance Title I, Part A programs, and to explain the Title I, Part A requirements, and the right of parents to be involved in Title I, Part A programs. The school will convene the meeting at a convenient time to parents, and will offer a flexible number of additional parental involvement meetings, such as in the morning or evening, so that as many parents as possible are able to attend. The school will invite to this meeting all parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs (participating students), and will encourage them to attend.
4. Provide parents reasonable access to staff. Specifically, staff will be available for consultation with parents as follows:
 - Ensuring that staff will have access to interpretation services in order to communicate with limited English speaking parents effectively;
 - Notifying parents of the procedures to arrange an appointment with their child's teacher or other school staff member;
 - Provide access to teacher web pages;
 - Provide access to teacher email for questions and extra help;
 - Planning activities for parents during the school year; and
 - Provide opportunity for teachers to share with parents how they can work together to support their children.

5. Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class and to observe classroom activities, as follows:

- Arranging opportunities for parents to receive training to volunteer and participate in the school, and to observe classroom activities (according to the Parent Observation Policy found in the student handbook);
- At UME Prep the primary avenue that parents are encouraged to be involved is by serving as a learning coach which involves which supporting their child's learning in the at home learning environment; and
- UME Prep provides a robust parent volunteering program through the Parent Affairs Committee (PAC). Please see the UME Prep parent volunteer webpage and the PAC webpage for more information.

6. Support school-family relationships and improve communication by:

- Providing weekly assignment sheets where the family can know how to support their child's learning;
- Convening a Targeted Assistance Title I, Part A Parent Annual Meeting (prior to December 1st of each school year) for parents of students participating in the Targeted Assistance Title I, Part A program to inform them of the school's Title I status and funded programs and their right to be involved;
- Respecting the rights of limited English proficient families to receive translated documents and interpretation services in order to ensure participation in their child's education;
- Providing information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to parents of participating children in a format and to the extent practicable in a language that parents can understand;
- Involving parents in the planning process to review, evaluate and improve the existing Title I programs, Parent Involvement Policy and this Compact;
- Providing parents with timely information regarding performance profiles and individual student assessment results for each child and other pertinent individual school information;
- Ensuring that the Parent Involvement Policy and School-Parent Compact are distributed and discussed with parents each year;
- Involving parents in the joint development of the Targeted Assistance Title I, Part A program, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way.
- Providing to parents of participating children information in a timely manner about the Targeted Assistance Title I, Part A program that includes a description and explanation of the school's curriculum, the forms of academic assessment used to measure students' progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet;
- Providing each parent timely notice when their child has been taught for four (4) or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified within the meaning of the term in section 200.56 of the Title I Final Regulations (67 Fed. Reg. 71710, December 2, 2002).

7. Affirm, encourage, and equip parents by:

- Creating a safe, supportive and effective learning community for students and a welcoming respectful environment for parents and guardians;
- Assisting parents in understanding academic achievement standards and assessments and how to monitor their child's progress by providing professional development opportunities (times will be scheduled so that the majority of parents can attend);
- Sharing and communicating best practices for effective communication, collaboration and partnering with all members of the school community;
- Ensuring that the Title I funds allocated for parent involvement are utilized to implement activities as described in this Compact and the Parent Involvement Policy; and
- Advising parents of their right to file a complaint under UME Prep's grievance process as noted in the student handbook and consistent with the No Child Left Behind Title I requirement for Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and Title I programs.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARENT

As a parent, I fully agree with and commit to support my child's learning in the following ways:

- Exercise my parental responsibility to be a positive influence, role model, and instructional learning coach for my child;
- Proceed through the appropriate channels if a concern arises with your child (parents ought to always communicate with the child's teacher prior to any consultation with administration)
- Monitor my child's attendance and ensure that my child arrives to school on time as well as follow the appropriate procedures to inform the school when my child is absent;
- Ensure that my child comes to school rested by setting a schedule for bedtime based on the needs of my child and his/her age;
- Monitor my child's grades via the parent portal system;
- Check and assist my child in completing homework tasks, providing guidance as my child develops organizational and time management habits and a strong work ethic;
- Read to my child and/or discuss what my child is reading each day, and model reading in the household;
- Set limits to the amount of time my child watches television or plays video games;
- Promote positive use of extracurricular time such as, extended day learning opportunities, clubs, team sports and/or quality family time;
- Encourage my child and hold them accountable to following school rules and regulations and discuss this Compact with my child;
- Participate, as appropriate, in the decisions relating to my child's education;
- Communicate with my child's teacher about educational needs and stay informed about their education by promptly reading and responding to all notices received from the school or district, as necessary;
- Respond to surveys, feedback forms, and notices when requested;

- Become involved in the development, implementation, evaluation and revision of the Parent Involvement Policy and this Compact as requested according to the Targeted Assistance Title I, Part A locally developed criteria;
- Participate in or request training offered by the school and/or the State Education Department to learn more about teaching and learning strategies whenever possible;
- Take part in the school's Parent Affairs Committee (PAC) or associated parent team.
- Request materials and/or support in the parent's first language when appropriate.
- Share responsibility for the improved academic achievement of my child.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT

As a UME Prep student, I fully agree with and commit to the following:

- Make a priority of cooperating with my parents and teachers to learn what I am supposed to learn;
- Strive to develop my time management and organizational skills;
- Focus on learning the subject, and not just completing the assignment;
- Be willing to ask questions to ensure understanding of material;
- Attend school regularly and arrive on time;
- Complete my homework and submit all assignments on time;
- Follow the school rules and be responsible for my actions (review student handbook for more information);
- Show respect for myself, school authority, peers, parent volunteers, other people and property;
- Strive to be a positive role model and leader through my speech and actions;
- Strive to resolve disagreements or conflicts peacefully;
- Greet and welcome school visitors as appropriate and be a positive representative of UME Preparatory Academy;
- Strive to represent my family well;
- Commit to learning and exhibiting the qualities of a UME Prep Eagle: