



UME PREPARATORY ACADEMY

Parental Involvement Policy

2014 – 2015

UME Preparatory Academy exists to produce college- and work-ready graduates and to offer parents time and training so that they will have enhanced opportunities to strengthen their families as they exercise greater influence over the spiritual, intellectual, and emotional growth of their children.

Statement of Purpose

UME Preparatory Academy is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every student in the district. To this end, we want to establish partnerships with parents and with the community. Neither home nor school can do the job alone. Parents play an extremely important role as the children's first teachers. Their support for their children and for the school is critical to their children's success at every step of the way. The purpose of parent involvement is to promote a school-family partnership that will help all students on all campuses succeed. Everyone gains if the school and family work together to promote high achievement for our children.

Grade level goals for the students of UME Preparatory Academy will be distributed to all parents in the district, with the expectations that all students will work toward these goals. We recognize that some students may need the extra assistance available through the Title I program, as well as other programs, to reach these goals.

1. The LEA –Local Education Agency/School District involve parents in the joint development of the district's plan [Section 1112] and the process of school review and improvement [Section 1116].

UME Preparatory Academy intends to include parents in all aspects of the district's Title I Targeted Assistance Program and Parental Involvement Policy. The goal is a school-family partnership that will help all students in the district succeed. Parents and district personnel will meet to develop our district's Parental Involvement Policy. Special attention will be given to recruiting parents of children participating in the Title I Program.

2. The LEA will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

UME Preparatory Academy, the District Program Compliance Coordinator and the District

Parent Involvement Coordinator will provide support and training to District faculty and staff to promote the parent involvement activities.

3. Build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parent involvement as described in section 1118(e). In order to build a dynamic home-school partnership, UME Preparatory Academy, with cooperation of the campuses, will provide the following:

- An annual meeting where parents will learn about the requirements of the school's Title I program, and be given an opportunity to become involved with their child's education. The annual meeting will be held prior to December 1st of each year. Notification will be sent to each child's parents, informing them of the date and time.
- Parent meetings and conferences held at different times during the day to accommodate the needs of the parents. Communications with parents will be in a format and a language that they can understand.
- A description and explanation of the curriculum used, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress (benchmarks, TPRI, etc.), and proficiency levels students are expected to meet, will be provided to parents through a letter or conference.
- Assistance to parents in understanding the state's academic content standards, known as the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and the state student achievement standards based on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness will be communicated through school-wide notification and a letter from the Dean of Academics.
- A school-parent compact designed by parents and school staff that outlines how parents, the entire campus staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improvement in student academic achievement.
- Parents will have the opportunity to help review, plan for and make suggestions to improve the Title I program, as well as the Parental Involvement Policy and the School-Parent Compact. Two meetings will be provided: one in the fall and one in the spring.
- Information relating to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities will be sent to parents in a timely manner. Information will be given to parents through newsletters from the school, the Parent Affairs Committee (PAC), and from the classroom teacher.
- Materials and specific training to help parents work with their children to improve achievement.

4. UME Preparatory Academy, to the extent feasible and appropriate will coordinate and integrate Title I, Part A parental involvement strategies with parental involvement strategies under other Programs in the school.

5. UME Preparatory Academy, with the involvement of parents, conducts an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the District Title I Parental Involvement Policy with regard to:

- improving the academic quality of the Title I, Part A schools
- identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities of Title I, Part A school authorized by section 1118, giving particular attention to parents who:
 - are economically disadvantaged
 - are disabled
 - have limited English proficiency
 - have limited literacy

- are of any racial or ethnic minority background

District personnel and parents will evaluate the parental involvement activities and the Parental Involvement Policy. Additionally, district personnel will use the findings of such evaluation, and recommendations in designing strategies for more effective parental involvement, and revising if necessary.

6. UME Preparatory Academy will involve parents in the activities of Title I, Part A schools. Timely communication and an inviting and family-friendly atmosphere will enhance parent involvement in the activities of the Title I, Part A participating schools. Parents will receive information in a language they can understand that will detail the activities of the school, and will be asked to participate. Schools may use communication strategies such as personal contact, newsletters, notes sent home with the students, and e-mail to invite parents to participate in the school's activities. Whenever possible, childcare and language interpreters will be provided.

Parents and community members are always welcome at our school. By working together and making suggestions to improve our school, we can make all the students in our school successful learners.