



Parent And Family Engagement Policy
2016 - 2017

Elementary School

General Expectations

Innovations International Charter School of Nevada agrees to:

Be governed by the statutory definition of parental and family engagement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition.

Parental and family engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- 1. That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning*
- 2. That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their children's education at school*
- 3. That parents are full partners in their children's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their children*

Innovations will seek to:

1. Involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A in decisions about how Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement are spent
2. Jointly develop/revise with parents the school's parental involvement policy and distribute it to parents with students enrolled at the school
3. Jointly conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the school's parental involvement policy
4. Use the findings of the parental involvement policy from the evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the school's parental involvement policy
5. Utilize parent comments for revising the plan in order to maximize the effectiveness of the plan to involve parents in the school
6. Provide an individual students report to parents that documents the child's performance on the State assessments in at least mathematics, language arts, reading and science where applicable
7. Provide parents notification in a timely manner of the use of a long-term substitute teacher and/or ARL teacher for their classroom
8. Provide parents notification in a timely manner of how to access information concerning the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers and paraprofessionals

Parent And Family Engagement In The Joint Development Or Revision Of The School's Plan

Innovations International Charter School of Nevada will take the following actions to:

1. Convene an annual meeting during the school's Mandated Parent Orientation each July and August at a time convenient for parents of enrolled students
 - a. Parents will be invited and strongly encouraged to attend
 - b. The school will provide information concerning the school, its policies, its funding, and the requirements of the various funding sources regarding expectations and the rights of parents
 - c. The school will provide child care at no cost to parents for those with small children wishing to use the services during the meeting

Activity/Task	Staff Responsible	Timeline	Steps	Accountability
Parent/Student Orientation Evenings	Administration and Teachers	July 2016 – September 2016	Letters sent home Flyers sent	Sign-in sheets
Parent Open House	Administration and Staff		Phone calls home	

2. Offer a flexible number of meetings during the assigned school year and may provide with Title I funds, services related to parental involvement

Activity/Task	Staff Responsible	Timeline	Steps	Accountability
Family Engagement Evenings	Administration and Staff	September 2016 – May 2017	Flyers sent Phone calls made	Sign-in sheets
Family Literacy Nights			Posting of meetings and events on the school's website and on the easel in the front lobby	
Open House				
Parent – Teacher Conferences				
Governing Board Meetings	Administration and Board Members		Board Agendas posted	

3. Involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and in a timely manner, in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs.

Activity/Task	Staff Responsible	Timeline	Steps	Accountability
Meetings	Administration and Staff	July 2016 – May 2017 At least once a semester	Flyers will be sent home	Sign-in sheets

4. Provide parents of enrolled students with the following:
- Timely information about the programs at the school including those with separate funding sources like Title I
 - Description and explanation of the curriculum at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet
 - Opportunities for meetings to formulate suggestions, and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children

Activity/Task	Staff Responsible	Timeline	Steps	Accountability
Title I Meeting – Parent Orientation Meetings	Administration and Staff	July 2016 – May 2017	Letters sent home	Sign-in sheets
Family Literacy Nights	Learning Strategist		Flyers sent	
Family Engagement Nights	Parent Engagement Coach/Mentor		Phone calls home	
Open House				
Parent Open House				
Parent – Teacher Conferences				
Public Notification Meetings				

- Note: if the school-wide plan is not satisfactory to the parents, the school will also submit the parents' comments on the plan that will be available to the local education agency.

Results Of The Annual District Wide Parent Survey

Research shows us that parent and family engagement in the learning process can have a powerful impact on students' learning outcomes. Students with involved parents are more likely to earn higher grades and test scores, attend school regularly, adapt better to the social and behavioral aspects of the school, and graduate from high school. Higher performing schools that involve parents in the decision making process become more focused on collaboration and communication, recognize and respect needs and differences, and share the responsibility for becoming student advocates in the learning process. Parental feedback is critical when developing a Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

In order to facilitate communication and planning of parent, community and school needs, the following elements will be used.

1. Annual surveys will be conducted to identify parent and family needs and the barriers to greater participation.
2. Annual surveys will also be utilized to design more effective strategies for educating students and families and to revise, if necessary, parent engagement at the school.
3. Survey results will be analyzed to measure the effectiveness of the plan and to secure input regarding modifications in future practices.
4. Measurable goals for increasing the level and quality of parent and family engagement will be required as part of the yearly improvement plan.
5. The school will encourage parents to complete yearly surveys that it develops as well as those developed by Clark County School District in order to increase the likelihood of getting a more robust look at the needs of families.

As a result of the 2015 – 2016 District Wide Parent Survey, the following information will be used to guide the goals set for the 2016 – 2017 school year.

1. Goal 4: Pledge of Achievement – Parent and Family Engagement
2. Innovations International Charter School had a 62.5% response rate from its parents. The target goal for the 2018 – 2019 school year would be a 93% response rate from its parents.
3. Subcategories of goal 4 that will be focusing agents for the school's action plan for the Parent and Family Engagement Policy are as follows.
 - a. Respect for Diversity – use of schoolwide positive behavior supports will be used as a framework for culturally responsive behavior support delivery to enhance teacher and staff awareness of cultural differences of families in the school.
 - b. School Safety – use of varied staff and resources to provide a safe, secure, and respectful learning environment for all students and employees of Innovations in the school's facilities and on school grounds and at school-sponsored events.
 - c. Bullying and Victimization – incorporation of school, family and individual programs to promote key elements critical for creating strong connections with students for a successful school life.
 - d. Learning Attitudes – methods for improving students' grades looking at behaviors, academic focus, academic vocabulary, and learning strategies to improve student achievement.

Strategies To Meet Family Needs And To Increase Parent Response Rates

1. **Respect for Diversity:** Innovations will continue to train staff on the use of positive behavioral supports as a framework for responsive cultural behaviors; use of a schoolwide Cultural Evening to celebrate families and students; and encourage parents to become active in their children's classrooms.
2. **School Safety:** Innovations will continue to train staff and educate parents on safety issues related to the school and school-sponsored events. This can be done through professional development, newsletters, and parent evening classes. Innovations will also continue to send staff member to conferences and training sessions with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department to bring back information for all stake holders.
3. **Bullying and Victimization:** Innovations has adopted and uses Sprigeo as a means for reporting bullying events. This is found on the school's website so parents and family members can report and seek assistance. The school also uses Parent Advisory Meetings to discuss behavioral issues with parents. This meeting is one-on-one with parents and family members in order to customize concerns families may have. The school also uses Character Counts as an instructional program utilized by the staff and counselors to develop relationships and to decrease bullying tendencies in children.
4. **Learning Attitudes:** Innovations recognizes that students come to the school with varying background experiences in and out of school. In order to assist with this, a variety of measures have been put into place. These can best be seen in the bulleted items below that we will continue to use to reach the families and students enrolled at the school.
 - a. Family Literacy Nights
 - b. Family Math Nights
 - c. Family Technology Nights
 - d. Family Language Nights
 - e. Before and After School Programs
 - f. Saturday School
 - g. Use of Tutors During the Instructional Day (**)
 - h. Family Field Trips
 - i. Parent – Teacher Conferencing
 - j. Use of Technology to Enhance Instruction (**)
 - k. Professional Learning Communities
 - l. Parents As Learning Partners Conference (**)
 - m. Parent Engagement Nights

- Note: (**) are programs specifically funded by Title I monies

Innovations acknowledges the importance of communication to reach the desired goal for an increase in parental response to the District Wide Parent Survey or any needs assessment put out by the school. Below are some strategies that will be used to facilitate regular, two-way, and meaningful communication between the home and school.

- Provide school staff with professional development on effective communication skills for effective verbal engagement, active listening, and empathetic responding with the parents/families at the school

- Encourage and promote a sense of care and concern for physical and emotional safety and the well-being of students, staff, and parents through Character Counts
- Establish systems of communication that will ensure that all information about policies, procedures, and expectations are on the school's website available in English, Spanish, and other necessary languages of students enrolled at the school
- Disseminate calendars of school activities to provide advance notice to parents and families
- Provide information and guidance concerning courses, curriculum, academic standards, and assessments through mandatory parent meetings and through appointments or written bulletins from the counselors' offices
- Establish a school-wide system of sharing information that is ongoing, timely, and understandable to families throughout the year. The school will focus on its website and on Class Dojo disseminated by teachers to students in their classrooms
- Conduct surveys for students, parents, staff, and community members to provide responses to school programs, policies, practices, and that share information and concerns about students on an annual or bi-annual basis
- Provide additional opportunities for parents to provide responses to classroom teachers about the academic progress of students through conferencing, counseling sessions, parent engagement evenings, or through discussions with the Professional Learning Communities
- Provide additional opportunities for parents to provide responses to student needs through RTI, 504, and/or IEP meetings and informational gathering sessions

Other Site-Based Parent Surveys/Evaluations/Feedback

Innovations International was deemed to be a Victory School for year one in the 2015 – 2016 school year. In August 2015, a needs assessment was conducted to determine how parents would like to see the funding made available to the school spent. In other words, what were their perceived needs that they would like to see the school address. The following information was determined.

Parent Responses

Identified Variables	Ranked #1 (# Responses)	Ranked #2 (# Responses)
Access to updated technology	74	21
Before and after school programs	56	24
Effective and engaging teachers	104	36
Access to food and food services	61	18
Additional learning time/resources	68	23
Parent involvement and support	29	20

Responses from the above chart were then used to determine what programs, what resources, and events would be provided by the school for the families and students. As the year progressed, the school determined that it was critical to survey parents for satisfaction with the programs, resources, and events that had been planned for the year. The school focused on updating technology, before and after school programs, extended learning, parent engagement, and meeting family needs.

A second parent needs assessment was conducted by Innovations in March 2016 to compare the perceived needs of the parents/families for the school to address for the 2016 – 2017 school year using continued Victory funding. The following information was reported by the parents.

Parent Satisfaction Survey

Question	% Agree	% No Opinion	% Disagree
Access to updated technology will help my child learn better	94%	3%	3%
Providing Before and After School Programs will help my child learn better	93%	6%	1%
Providing tutoring and homework help will help my child learn better	94%	5%	1%
Providing additional learning time outside of the regular school day will help my child learn better	91%	6%	3%

Providing opportunities for parent involvement and support will help my child learn better	92%	7%	1%
Providing parents with resources to help the family will help students do better in school	90%	10%	0%
Providing supports for families that speak a language other than English will help children learn better	92%	6%	2%
Providing families with classes/resources on how to work with student social, emotional, and behavioral needs will help children learn better	94%	5%	1%

Parent Needs Assessment

Priority Number	Descriptor
1	Highly Qualified Teachers
2	Updated Technology In School
3	Parent And Family Engagement Activities
4	Tutoring And Homework Help
5	Before And After School Programs
6	Additional Learning Time For Students
7	Language Supports For Families Who Speak A Language Other Than English
8	Literacy Programs And Resources
9	Quality Curriculum And Instruction
10	Extra-Curricular Activities
11	Resources/Classes On How To Work With Student Social, Emotional, And Behavioral Needs
12	Mental Health/Well Being Services
13	Resources For Meeting Family Needs

Since Innovations is approaching its second year as a Victory School, another needs assessment is being completed and the data will be analyzed and shared to determine what programs, events, resources, etc. will be offered for the current school year.

Action Plan For Involving Parents/Family Members In the Process Of School Review And Improvement

A comprehensive plan involves school, families, and community members in a meaningful and equally involved process for planning, disseminating, sharing, and receiving information about activities or about students at the school. In order to make this happen, families and school personnel work together for a balanced representation of input and implementation of the plan by stakeholders. Elements critical to this include the following.

1. Involving families in disseminating, sharing, receiving, and discussing information related to school activities. Parents are invited to yearly parent conferences, parent trainings, and to the school's quarterly Governing Board meetings to discuss such things as school improvement, Title I and other additional funding sources, literacy plans, and the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Their views are solicited and welcomed throughout these sessions.
2. Technology is used to communicate information to stakeholders as well as receive information from them. Innovations uses its website, the school's email, and Class Dojo to give and receive information.
3. Parent focused event evenings, weekend classes, parent learning conferences, and field trip dates are used as an impetus to share information and to receive feedback from parents about a variety of issues governing the school.
4. A Community Liaison is utilized by the school to share and seek information and feedback from parents.
5. Written notices, letters home, and newsletters are also used to communicate with families.

To be more specific, yearly meetings are held to discuss the Title I budget, Victory budget, Literacy Plan, and Parent and Family Engagement Plan with the parents. Each of these meetings is held over a period of time and on different days/times in an attempt to accommodate families. Parents are notified on the website, by postings in the schools' foyers, by phone calls, and by notices sent home in both English and Spanish. Innovations also holds meetings prior to the events planned at the school in an attempt to capture more family members for input.

In July and August 2016, Innovations held 6 mandatory parent orientation meetings to discuss the new school year. Prior to this discussion, discussions concerning Title I and the Parent and Family Involvement Policy were held. Information was shared with the parents, copies of the plans were shown via Power Point Presentations, and parents were asked to give feedback and ask questions. Since then, a revised parent plan with new expectations have been discussed. The school will hold meetings prior to September 30, 2016 to discuss revisions and get further parental input. In order for there to be a comprehensive discussion, staff members will also be informed and their input will be sought as well. All of this information will be documented by notes taken at the meetings and/or through written feedback by parents and staff members in order to ensure their needs are met and their points of interest are discussed and included in the plan.

Educational Involvement Accord

Innovations has provided multiple opportunities for parents, students, and staff members to have access to the Nevada Educational Involvement Accord. First, the school has it published on the website. This can be accessed by anyone needing it at any time and in a language they can read and understand. Next, The accord is given as a handout and explained at the summer Mandatory Parent Orientation meetings. The accord is also published in our Parent and Student Handbook where parents can again access and review it at their leisure. Finally, the accord is on file in both of the school's offices where the administration, counselors, and staff members can access it for full discussion and review as needed. Once the forms have been signed and returned with the parents' and student's signatures, the accord is filed in the office in a binder so if the need arises, it can be brought forward for any future discussions with parents and students. This document is required for current signatures each year that students are enrolled and it is reviewed yearly with the parents and students.

Building Parents' Capacity for Involvement

Innovations acknowledges the necessity to ensure parents are informed about the following items.

- Nevada Academic Content Standards
- Nevada Academic Standards
- Nevada Academic Assessments
- Nevada Proficiency Level Targets
- Title I Standards and Expectations
- Monitoring Student Progress
- Parent – Teachers Working Together

Sharing information and training for parents, family members and school personnel is critical. The following elements have been and will continue to be elements that Innovations uses to ensure parents are informed about education for their children in Nevada.

1. Informational meetings for parents and family members in the form of orientations, open house events, and parent engagement classes.
2. Informational newsletters sent home quarterly noting academics and sharing strategies for parents on assessment, working with the school and students, preparing for academic success, and how to assist students in the 21st Century curriculum.
3. Provide information to parents in the form of flyers on the website and on the promotion, retention, and academic standards that guide students through the learning process.
4. Provide information and technology evenings whereby parents are taken to practice exam sites to see the types of responses needed for students to answer exam questions.
5. Provide information and technology evenings whereby parents are taken to the Nevada Department of Education website and walked through the site to note standards, expectations, and sample exam questions at all grade levels.
6. Parent conferences and event evenings that prepare and inform parents to become actively engaged as members of Innovations' learning environment will be held monthly throughout the year to address these essential issues.
7. Saturday school classes to be held and parents invited to attend with their children to prepare for academic rigor.
8. Addition of a "Newcomers Club" for all entering kindergarten families to prepare them for the academic rigor and expectations associated with promotion and credit bearing classes.

9. Provide parents with helpful hints to be prepared to ask questions and seek information from teachers.
10. Provide non-English speaking parents with translators to help them ask and understand the information shared concerning educating their children.
11. Provide access to parents on the Response to Intervention, 504 Plan, Special Education, and English Language Learners process to understand their children's needs both academically, socially, and behaviorally in the educational process.

School Provision of Materials and Training To Assist Parents and Families For Academic Achievement Compact: Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement

As a component of the school-level parental involvement policy/plan, each school will jointly develop, with parents for all children served under this part, a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The school-parent compact may be a separate document, but must still be developed in collaboration with parents.

Innovations International Charter School of Nevada will:

1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet Nevada's student academic standards as follows:

Students will receive 90 minutes of reading instruction daily utilizing Reading Street and a supplementation time of 60 minutes of Moby Max in individual remediation of language needs. In addition, students will receive an additional 30 minutes of supplementary instruction in academic vocabulary and academic literacy using Rule of 3 and Stoplight Reading. This intervention/enrichment will enable students to receive instruction on their grade level content standards and then receive remediation/enrichment activities based on their individual performance levels. Students will receive an additional 60 minutes daily of Envisions math for direct instruction in mathematics concepts. Included with this is a supplementation of Common Core Plus as a curriculum to assist students in transitioning toward success in mastering common core standards while preparing for state mandated testing.

2. Hold parent-teacher conferences during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual student's academic achievement. There will be one formalized parent – teacher conference scheduled for early fall each academic year and then parents will be encouraged to seek teachers throughout the school year with concerns.

A minimum of one parent-teacher conference will be held in the fall each year. This will coincide with the distribution of the first quarter's report cards/progress reports in order to allow parents to work with the teacher in achieving academic success for the child. The purpose of the conference will be to review the progress report/report card and/or behavioral issues and discuss academic successes and weaknesses.

3. Provide parents with frequent reports on their children's progress. Specifically, the school will provide reports as follows:
 - Parents will be provided with a minimum of four (4) progress reports
 - Parents will be provided with one report card per semester (2 in all)
 - Teachers will use the Student Planners on a daily basis to communicate with parents
 - Parents will be provided with instruction on the use of Infinite Campus's Parent Portal to track student progress

4. Provide parents with reasonable access to staff. Specifically, staff will be available for consultation with parents as follows:
 - IICSN has an open-door policy. Parents may set a meeting or ask to be in class with their child with at least a 24-hour notice at any time during the day.
5. Provide parents with opportunities to volunteer in their children's classroom. They may assist in their children's class and observe classroom activities as follows:
 - Parent volunteers – in the classroom to assist the teacher
 - Small group tutorials – listen to and help children read and/or do spelling/vocabulary
 - Classroom mom/dad – help with activities/parties
 - Classroom chaperones – assist the teacher and students for safety in field trips
 - School-wide activities – assist in the special event evenings conducted by the school (school fair, school book fair, school dances, etc.)

Parents will support the children's learning in the following ways:

- Monitoring attendance
- Ensuring homework is completed and returned in a timely fashion
- Monitoring the amount of time children engage in media and television
- Participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the child's education
- Promoting possible use of children's extracurricular time
- Staying positive and using extracurricular time to develop leadership skills (sports, drama, music, etc.)
- Remaining informed about their children's education and communicating with the school
- Reading the newsletters and flyers sent home for continued information as to the happenings and policies of the school
- Serving, to the extent possible, on any committees where a parent representative is needed
- Attending school functions willingly in order to remain current with new educational procedures and information shared about academic achievement for their children

Students will share the responsibility to improve their academic achievement by:

- Doing nightly homework and returning it completed in a timely manner
- Advocating and asking for assistance when needed
- Coming to school prepared to learn
- Reading nightly
- Giving parents all notices, flyers, newsletters, and information sent home for parent information
- Studying and preparing for all exams
- Attending school on time daily in order to make the best use of educational time

Additional Activities Related To Parental Involvement

Activity/Task	Staff Responsible	Timeline	Steps	Accountability
Family Literacy Nights	Administration and Staff	September 2016 – May 2017	Letters sent home	Sign-in sheets
Family Math Nights	Learning Strategist		Flyers sent	Program evaluations
Family Technology Nights	ELL Professional Development Strategist		Phone calls home	Parent interviews and discussions
Family Language Nights			Announcements posted in the foyer on a white board	Parent and Family Observations
Family Engagement Nights				Parent Continual Attendance At Events
Parent Open House				
Science Night				
Family Field Trips				
Choral Concerts				
Kindergarten Round-Up				
Parents As Learning Partners				
Yearly Parent – Community Conference				
Athletic Events				
Student Celebration Dinners				
Yearly Talent Show				
Parent Volunteer Recognition				
Before and After School Programs				

1. Foster parental involvement by providing materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement.

Activity/Task	Staff Responsible	Timeline	Steps	Accountability
Family Literacy Nights	Administration and Staff	September 2016 – May 2017	Letters sent home	Sign-in sheets
Family Math Nights	Learning Strategist		Flyers sent	Program evaluations
Family Technology Nights	ELL Professional Development Strategist		Phone calls home	Parent interviews and discussions
Family Language Nights			Announcements posted in the foyer on a white board	Parent and Family Observations
Family Engagement Nights				Parent Continual Attendance At Events
Parents As Learning Partners Yearly Parent – Community Conference				
Before and After School Programs for Students and/or Parents				
Saturday School				

- Educate teachers, student services personnel, principals, and other staff on the value and utility of contributions of parents and in how to reach out to communicate and work with parents as equal partners. Actions should include how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and the school.

Activity/Task	Staff Responsible	Timeline	Steps	Accountability
Volunteer Training	Administration and Instructional Staff	On-going	Communicate with parents through flyers, website, newsletters, phone calls, point of contact when parents are in the school, and with the counselors	Sign-in sheets
Literacy Training	Experts from the local universities			Program evaluations
Technology Training	Coaches/Mentors for ELL			Parent interviews and discussions
Homework Training	Learning Strategist			Parent and Family Observations
Test Preparation and Practice Training				Parent Continual Attendance At Events

- Coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities that teach parents how to help their children at home to the extent feasible and appropriate. The school will also develop activities that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

Activity/Task	Staff Responsible	Timeline	Steps	Accountability
Literacy Training	Administration and Instructional Staff	On-going	Communicate with parents through flyers, website, newsletters, phone calls, point of contact when parents are in the school, and with the counselors	Sign-in sheets
Technology Training	Experts from the local universities			Program evaluations
Homework Training	Coaches/Mentors for ELL and Literacy			Parent interviews and discussions
Test Preparation and Practice Training				Parent and Family Observations
				Parent Continual Attendance At Events

4. Ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to parents of enrolled students in a format and language the parents can understand.

Information sent home to the parents is sent in English and Spanish which are the two predominant languages spoken at the school. Innovations also has the availability of translators to help parents where appropriate.

5. Provide reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request.

Information sent home to the parents is sent in English and Spanish which are the two predominant languages spoken at the school. Innovations also has the availability of translators to help parents where appropriate. Activities that are hosted by the school for parents consistently have translators available to help the parents participate and have a voice in what is taking place.

Innovations International Charter School of Nevada's School Parent and Family Engagement Policy utilizes many methods for consulting with parents and actively seeking their engagement in the learning process. It chooses to undertake the building of parent capacity for involvement in the school to support student's academic achievement. The following outline some of these elements.

1. Provide necessary literacy, mathematic, technology, and test taking instruction for parents.
2. Provide extended learning opportunities for students where parents may sit with them and observe the learning that takes place while getting assistance in understanding how to help their children with homework and test preparation
3. Provide a day long Parents As Learning Partners Conference in the spring to train parents and bring them the most current information on student achievement and community resources for parents.
4. Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities.
5. Engage parents in working as a family alongside the children to increase their skill level and interest in student academic achievement
6. Arrange school meetings at a variety of times to afford the opportunity for a variety of parents to participate
7. Arrange meetings with parents who are unable to attend conferences at school to maximize parental involvement and participation in their child's education
8. Research, adopt, and implement research-based model approaches to improving parental involvement
9. Develop appropriate rules for community-based organizations and businesses for parental involvement
10. Introduce parents to the technology enhanced programs used to remediate/enrich student learning

Accessibility

In carrying out the parental involvement requirements of this plan, to the extent practical, Innovations International Charter School of Nevada shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents with children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children including information and school reports in a format and to the extent practical, in a language parents can understand.

Description Of How The School Educates Teachers And Staff In Parent Communication

Training is a critical component for assisting teachers and staff members in producing a positive communication style when working with parents, family members, and students. The following methods are and will continue to be used to assist teachers, administration, and other staff members in reading out to, communicating with, and working with parents and family members as equal partners in the education of children.

1. Provide training for staff on vital elements of effective family involvement to include:
 - a. Edivate – an on-going professional development library/resource system used by the school to facilitate professional growth in all areas related to students, families, instruction, and professionalism
 - b. Presenters – use of trained consultants to work with all staff members on communication, diversity, and creating/sustaining parent programs that assist families
 - c. Character Counts Materials and Consultant – use of materials and presentations from Character Counts on all areas related to working with parents, students, and staff on positive school climate and social-emotional growth of students as well as on the Six Pillars of Character related to positive character development
2. Provide training to families and staff in such a way that it establishes a common set of knowledge, standards, and expectations for communication and relationship building to include:
 - a. Family event nights – discussing and utilizing academic standards and skills concerning reading, writing, mathematics, technology, and language development associated with school achievement and parent/teacher partnerships
 - b. Family engagement nights – use of community service agencies to assist parents with their own needs as well as helping them to interact with staff in the school to build relationships of trust and respect
 - c. School-wide professional development trainings – giving strategies and tips for working with parents and families in a positive manner in order to assist in open communication styles where all members are acknowledged for their contribution to the educational environment
3. Provide written notices and tips for communication styles and active listening to build relationships whereby parents and the school staff work well together in the interest of children
4. Provide parents with a yearly Parents As Learning Partners Conference whereby experts in various fields of education, teachers, university professors, and a nationally or locally known expert are called up to provide breakout sessions for parents on all aspects of education and working within the school environment.

For the current school year, family event nights take place once a week each month. Family field trips with staff members are coordinated and take place once a quarter, and Saturday school takes place twice a month. These are all placed on a master events calendar posted on the school's website and given out to students and families at the beginning of the school year. They are posted in the school's office and placed on a white board/easel in the front foyer. Monthly reminders are sent out to families via a flyer format to alert parents as to what is going on and monthly newsletters are sent home to families alerting them to tips and suggestions on items of concern or essential skills related to school and families. Finally, parent satisfaction surveys are sent home each semester seeking parent input and suggestions for how the school can make things better for them and for the children. Teachers and staff members also take a survey each semester to seek their input as well.

Description Of How The School Takes Actions To Ensure Information Related To School Activities Are Sent Home And Understood

Programs and special efforts to engage families make a difference in creating and sustaining a congenial, collaborative environment between the homes and school. School outreach to families can result in a strong, consistent gain in student performance in critical areas such as literacy and mathematics. Effective outreach practices include meeting with families face-to-face, sending learning materials home, and establishing effective progress reporting to parents on a regular basis. Workshops such as Innovations' family nights where parents and teachers work together on a predetermined lesson or skill are also critical in helping families to become actively engaged in the learning process and in working with their children in an effort to impress upon parents the academic standards and what it takes instructionally wise to get students to learn.

Innovations is cognizant that a large percentage of our families speak a language other than English in their households. In order to address this language barrier, the following strategies are used:

1. Use of interpreters to assist in communication
2. Use of all printed documents sent home in English and Spanish
3. Use of the school's website to post information as it then can be used to translate documents into the family's native language
4. Use of hands on materials for projects and topics being covered for the evening at the events so parents can follow the lesson being modeled
5. Use of special education staff as volunteers at family events to assist in working with children having documented academic or behavioral needs
6. Use of alternative assignments or projects as needed to assist with any request that should arise

Description Of How The School Coordinates And Integrates Parent Involvement Programs With Other Federal, State, and Local Activities

Collaboration with other community resources and activities is critical for parent involvement when tied to student learning. Innovations is careful to separate funding sources and activities in order to reduce duplication, yet it attempts to coordinate services and programs to enhance parental involvement in an effort to increase student academic achievement. The following ideas are those previously used by the school or those that will become future endeavors for programs offered.

1. Prepare, hold, and maintain community involvement in the Parent Engagement Programs put on by the school once per quarter during the school year. These community organizations set up tables, make presentations, and/or provide community services/resources for families. These services involve health issues, cultural events, social support, food banks, job fairs, and counseling resources offered throughout the Las Vegas Valley for parents and families. These evenings are coordinated with the Victory funds.
2. Prepare, hold, and maintain monthly parent and family help nights whereby teachers and administration work with parents and families on literacy skills, math skills, technology proficiency, and language acquisition skills. These evenings are coordinated with the Victory funds.
3. Prepare and conduct a Parents As Learning Partners Conference in conjunction with the Title I parent educational funds. During this conference, instructional materials are offered to parents as they are shown how to use them to assist with learning at home. The parents are also asked to register for breakout sessions with a variety of instructional, social, environmental, and educational based themes that educate parents on issues involved in the learning environment. A opening guest speaker is invited to the conference to address issues pertinent to school safety and health issues as well.

4. Prepare, hold, and maintain communication with parents through a variety of measures on issues that involve parent input and feedback. These are completed as paper and pencil assessments, online surveys, face-to-face meetings, and parent small/large group informational meetings. To the extent feasible, these are coordinated during parent- teacher conferences, mandatory parent orientation meetings, the school's open house night, and during any other planned meeting times of the school's board members.

Description Of How The School Provides Other Reasonable Support For Parent And Family Engagement Activities Requested By Parents

Innovations acknowledges that not all parents are able to attend the planned family events monthly and that other issues may arise that need immediate attention. The school utilizes the following methods to seek parent requests and provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities.

1. Provision of Before and After School Literacy and Homework Rooms to assist students registered for the programs.
2. Coordinate a partnership with Three Square to provide weekend backpacks and nightly dinner to students utilizing the After School Program.
3. Provision of Breakfast After the Bell to students needing to be fed daily.
4. Schedule and hold Parent-Teacher Conferences to advise parents of their children's progress in academics, behavioral, and social issues.
5. Provide additional learning services for students needing additional assistance through the Response to Intervention Program, the Section 504 Plan, and the Students With Disabilities Act.
6. Live phone calls and or text messages through Class Dojo to alert parents to issues and/or announcements at school and to handle parent concerns as they arise.
7. Provision of an Open House to share information with parents and to give them the opportunity to question the teachers on information pertinent to education.
8. Provision of Parent Volunteer Groups to assist in the school and to provide mentorships to other parents.
9. Provide representation for parents on the school's governing board.
10. Create a food/clothing/resources pantry for parents needing assistance with the basics of everyday need.

Adoption

This Innovations International Charter School of Nevada's Parent and Family Engagement Plan has been developed and agreed upon as a school participating in the Title I program.

The Parent and Family Engagement Plan will remain in effect for the 2016 – 2017 school year. The initial meeting was held during the Mandatory Parent Orientation Meetings in July and August and the revision meetings will be held in September in order to receive feedback and input from parents. The plan will be reviewed in the spring for re-adoption and/or revision as necessary.

The school will distribute this Parental Involvement Plan/Policy to all parents on or before the fall of each school year. A copy of this plan will be kept in the office and posted on the school's website for review upon stakeholder request.