Strong Foundations Charter School

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**Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

**Purpose**

Strong Foundations Charter School recognizes that meaningful parent and family engagement is vital to student success. The school is committed to building strong partnerships between home and school to promote high academic achievement for all students. This policy outlines expectations and specific strategies to engage parents and families in a shared responsibility for student learning, in accordance with the requirements of Title I, Part A and Title IV, Part A.

**Policy Objectives**

* To cultivate and sustain meaningful relationships with parents and families.
* To promote effective collaboration between parents, educators, and the community.
* To eliminate barriers and ensure all families, regardless of background, have equitable access to information and opportunities to support student learning.

**Section A: Involvement in the Development of the LEA’s Title I, Part A and Title IV, Part A Plans**

Strong Foundations Charter School will:

* Invite parents and family members to participate in the annual Title I and Title IV Planning Meeting.
* Include parent representatives on Title I and Title IV planning committees to help review goals, programming, and the Title I schoolwide plan.
* Distribute drafts of the Title I and Title IV plans for public comment and feedback.
* Use surveys and focus groups to gather parent input prior to finalizing the plan.

**Section B: Supporting Effective Parent and Family Involvement Activities**

The school will:

* Provide professional development to staff on best practices for engaging families.
* Offer workshops and materials for parents to support learning at home (e.g., reading strategies, math games).
* Host family engagement events such as Curriculum Open Houses.
* Ensure parent communications are regular, clear, accessible, and in families’ preferred languages.

**Section C: Coordination with Other Programs**

Strong Foundations Charter School will coordinate Title I, Part A and Title IV, Part A engagement efforts with:

* IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) through collaboration with special education staff to engage families of students with disabilities.
* Ensure English Learner families are supported with translated materials.
* McKinney-Vento program, ensuring that homeless families are included and supported in engagement activities.
* Local community organizations such as the Parent Information Center and early childhood programs such as Head Start to support transitions into and out of the school.

**Section D: Annual Evaluation of Policy Effectiveness**

(i) Conducting the Evaluation:

* An annual evaluation will be held in the spring, with broad parent and community participation encouraged through surveys, small group discussions, and community forums.
* All Title I families will be invited to participate.
* All staff will be invited, including teachers, principals, other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, students, members of community-based organizations such as the Parent Information Center, local government representatives, and any others with expertise in programs that meet the purpose of Title IV, Part A.
* Data will be collected on the usefulness and accessibility of engagement activities, parent satisfaction, and impact on student achievement.

(ii) Identifying Barriers:

* The evaluation will specifically seek input on barriers experienced by:
  + Economically disadvantaged families
  + Parents with disabilities
  + Families with limited English proficiency or literacy
  + Families from other historically underserved communities
* Parents will be asked to suggest ways to remove these barriers and improve engagement.

**Section E: Use of Evaluation Findings**

* The results from the annual evaluation will be used to:
  + Develop evidence-based, actionable strategies to better engage families.
  + Tailor activities to meet the needs of underrepresented families.
  + Revise the Parent and Family Engagement Policy to reflect current needs and best practices.
  + Train staff on updated engagement techniques and cultural responsiveness.
  + Develop the school’s Title IV, Part A section of the consolidated application.

**Section F: Involving Parents in Title I School Activities**

Strong Foundations Charter School will:

* Establish a **Parent Advisory Board** to meet at least annually to review engagement efforts, suggest improvements, and assist in policy revisions.
* Provide multiple opportunities for families to volunteer, attend school events, participate in school improvement planning, and join school committees.

**Accessibility**

To ensure full access to this policy and all engagement activities:

* Translations will be made available in the primary languages spoken by families.
* All materials will be provided in plain, family-friendly language.
* Meetings will be offered at various times and formats (in-person, virtual) to maximize participation.

Proposed and adopted: July 23, 2025

**Appendix:**

School/Parent Compact

Fostering Academic Success through Shared Responsibility and Partnership

# Introduction

This School/Parent Compact is a collaborative agreement developed for students served by Title I programs. It outlines the shared responsibilities of the school, parents, and students to provide a high-quality education that empowers every child to meet or exceed challenging State academic standards. By working together, the school community can ensure that every student receives the support, guidance, and opportunities needed for academic and personal growth.

# School Responsibilities

Our school is committed to providing every student with a supportive and effective learning environment. We promise to:

* Deliver High-Quality Curriculum and Instruction: Employ qualified and dedicated teachers who use research-based instructional strategies aligned with State academic standards. Our curriculum will be rigorous, inclusive, and designed to meet the diverse needs of all students.
* Maintain a Supportive Learning Environment: Foster a safe, respectful, and nurturing atmosphere that encourages curiosity, creativity, and resilience. We provide well-maintained facilities and resources, ensuring students feel valued and equipped to learn.
* Promote Engagement and Achievement: Offer programs and activities that challenge students while supporting their academic, social, and emotional growth. These include enrichment opportunities, interventions, and access to technology that enhances learning.
* Set High Expectations for All: Communicate clear learning objectives and maintain high expectations, encouraging students to set and achieve their individual goals.
* Provide Professional Development: Offer ongoing training for teachers and staff focused on best instructional practices, family engagement, cultural competency, and the effective use of assessment data.

# Parent Responsibilities

As parents and guardians, you are a crucial partner in your child’s education. We ask that you:

* Support Your Child’s Learning: Ensure your child attends school regularly and arrives prepared to learn. Encourage your child to complete homework and engage in reading and learning activities outside the classroom.
* Volunteer in the Classroom: Contribute your time and talents by volunteering in your child’s classroom or at school events. Your presence helps create a vibrant and connected learning environment.
* Participate in Educational Decisions: Attend school meetings, join parent advisory groups, and collaborate with teachers and administrators on decisions affecting your child’s education and well-being.
* Foster Positive Use of Extracurricular Time: Encourage your child to take part in extracurricular activities, such as clubs, sports, arts, and community service, which promote responsibility, leadership, and social skills.
* Communicate with the School: Stay informed about school events, policies, and your child’s progress. Reach out to teachers or staff with any questions, concerns, or ideas for improving the school community.

# Student Responsibilities

Students also play a vital role in creating a successful learning experience. All students are encouraged to:

* Be an Active Learner: Participate fully in classroom activities, ask questions, and seek help when needed.
* Complete Assignments: Take responsibility for completing homework and studying for assessments.
* Respect Others: Treat classmates, teachers, staff, and all members of the school community with kindness and respect.
* Use Time Wisely: Engage in positive, growth-oriented activities both during and after school hours.
* Communicate Honestly: Share successes, challenges, and concerns with parents and teachers.

# Communication between School and Parents

We recognize that ongoing, open communication is essential for student success. To promote a strong partnership, the school will ensure:

## A. Parent-Teacher Conferences

* We will offer at least one parent-teacher conference annually for every student. During this conference, your child’s individual achievement will be discussed. These meetings provide an opportunity to celebrate successes, identify areas for growth, and refine goals and strategies in collaboration with families.

## B. Frequent Progress Reports

* Parents will receive regular updates on their child’s academic performance, behavior, and attendance. Progress reports will be sent home at the end of each grading period and may also include interim reports for students needing additional support.
* Teachers will communicate concerns or outstanding achievements promptly, using phone calls, emails, or written notes as appropriate.

## C. Access and Participation

* Parents have reasonable access to school staff for discussions about their child’s needs and progress. We welcome parents to volunteer in classrooms, join in field trips or special projects, as schedules and school policies allow. (A satisfactory criminal background check is required for participation as a school volunteer.)
* Opportunities to volunteer and participate in school events will be advertised through emails and our website.

## D. Two-Way, Meaningful Communication

* We are committed to maintaining regular, two-way communication between families and school staff. This includes personal meetings, phone calls, emails, written notices, and digital communication platforms.
* Efforts will be made to provide communications in a language that is understandable to all family members, including translation services whenever practicable.
* We encourage families to share feedback, ask questions, and communicate any concerns to help tailor teaching strategies and school programs to better serve our students.

# Commitment to Inclusiveness

Our school serves a diverse student body and values each family’s unique background and perspective. To the extent possible, all communications, meetings, and opportunities for involvement will be accessible and culturally responsive. We strive to create a welcoming environment for all families and students.

# Joint Commitment of: School Administration, Teachers, Parents/Guardians, and Students

We acknowledge the joint responsibility for supporting our students’ academic achievement and well-being.

# Conclusion

Through this compact, we affirm our pledge to work together in partnership for the benefit of every student. We believe that collaboration, communication, and shared purpose among families, educators, and students are the foundation for a thriving school community and lifelong learning.