



Updated: August, 2020

DISTRICT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Each district in its District Parental Policy must establish the district's expectations for parental involvement. [section 1118(a)(2),ESEA.]

Belmont Charter School and Inquiry Charter School agree to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The Schools will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), Title I, Part A programs. Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1118, the School District will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of sections 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the School District and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternation formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- The school will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools for parent-related activities or other school-related activity as agreed upon between the parents and the school administration.
- The school will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

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

- (A) That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
- (B) That parents 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 are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;*
- (D) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.*

The School will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in the State.

**PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT
REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

1. The Belmont & Inquiry Charter Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its school-wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - Provide a method to send in questions/comments/feedback as information will be sent due to virtual learning environment*
 - Surveys given out to see what parents' expectations for the year are.*

2. The Belmont & Inquiry Charter Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - Solicit opinion during school improvement plan*
 - Parent members of the School Improvement Plan Committee*

3. The school will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
 - Communication with families*
 - Academic support*
 - Classroom visits allowed with appointment*
 - Bring your parent to school day*
 - Parents will have online access to their student's assignments/success*
 - Reading and Math programs are online & can be accessed from home.*

The Belmont & Inquiry Charter School will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Title I, Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: *Head Start*

4. The Belmont & Inquiry Charter Schools will take the following action to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in order to assess its impact on family engagement in Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities. The School will use the findings to the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

The Head of the PTO & the Project Coordinator will read annually at PTO meeting where the questions addressed in the above paragraph will be asked and answers solicited from the parents in attendance. Also, reviews of the parental involvement policy and suggestions on how it could be improved will be solicited.

1. The Belmont & Inquiry Charter Schools will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

- A. The Belmont & Inquiry Charter Schools, will provide assistance to parents, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking action described in this paragraph,

- The State's academic content standards;
- The State's student academic achievement standards;
- The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments;
- The requirements of Title I, Part A;
- How to monitor their child's progress, and
- How to work with educators.

- *Monthly parent events*
- *Academic support*
- *Parents have online access to their students assignments/success through Pearson software*
- *PSSA workshops*
- *Preparing parents ahead of time for the expectations/standards for their students*

- B. The Belmont & Inquiry Charter Schools will, with assistance, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement by:

- *Tech support*
- *Academic support*
- *PowerSchool: parents have online access to their students assignments/success through Pearson software*
- *Training for PowerSchool available at report card conferences & back-to-school night*
- *PSSA workshops*
- *Preparing parents ahead of time for the expectations/standards for their students*

C. The Belmont & Inquiry Charter Schools will, with assistance, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate with parent programs and build ties between parents and school by:

- *Professional Development*
- *Monthly Parent Events*
- *Behavior sheets; written communication between parents & teachers*
- *Individual Voicemails for teachers*
- *Teachers text/email with parents*
- *BACS: Parents must sign their child out of his/her classroom*

D. The Belmont & Inquiry Charter Schools will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- *Monthly parent events*
- *Parent Workshops*
- *Tutoring with students*
- *Homework Help*
- *Lending Library (3 year olds-K) & Sustained Silent Reading (1-8)*
- *Classroom visits allowed with appointment*
- *Bring your parent to school day*
- *PowerSchool: parents have online access to their students assignments/success through Pearson software*

E. The Belmont Charter School will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent-programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that the parents can understand:

- *Spanish speaking staff available for families that need them.*

PART III. DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

- Involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
- Providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
- Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- Training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- Arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school; in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children’s education;
- Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- Establishing a school-wide parent advisory council to provide input on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and
- Providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

PART IV. ADOPTION

This Belmont & Inquiry Charter School District Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and on with, parents as evidenced by Claire Cohen, Inquiry Charter School Director & Jennifer Faustman, Belmont Charter School CEO.

The schools will upload this policy on their website www.belmontcharternetwork.org and distribute this policy to all parents on or before September 30, 2020.

(Director Signature)

(Date)