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## **BLUESKY CHARTER SCHOOL POLICY No. 6.14**

### **Parent and Family Engagement | Written Plan**

#### BlueSky Online Charter School Parent and Family Engagement Policy

BlueSky Online Charter School is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child in this district. We want to establish partnerships with parents and with the community. Everyone gains if school and home work together to support high achievement of our children. We can't do this job alone. Parents and families play an extremely important role as children's first teachers. Their support for their children and for the school is critical to their children's success at every step along the way.

#### Part I. District Expectations

BlueSky Online Charter School agrees to implement the following requirements:

1. BlueSky Online will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members. Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
2. BlueSky Online will work to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and includes, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1116(d) of the ESSA.
3. In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, BlueSky Online will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
4. BlueSky will incorporate this into its district plan.
5. If BlueSky's plan for Title I, Part A found in the State Educational Record View and Submission (SERVS), developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, BlueSky Online will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the Minnesota Department of Education.

## Part II. Description of How the District and School Will Implement Required Components

- 1) BlueSky Online will engage parents and families who have students served with Title 1 funds in developing/revising the district and school policy.

In the fall of every school year, BlueSky Online will send an online form (*District and School Parent and Family Engagement Policy Feedback Form*) to all families giving them an opportunity to voice their interest and involvement and provide feedback regarding current practices and policy. BlueSky will also offer opportunities for parents to provide input using additional avenues including parent-teacher conferences, phone call, text message or email exchanges.

- 2) BlueSky Online will take the following actions to engage the parents and families in jointly developing the district Title I plan (section 1112) which is in the SERVS application and the development and review of the Schoolwide or Title I Targeted Assistance Plan. If applicable the Comprehensive Support and Improvement and the Targeted Support and Improvement plan, in the schools' identified for improvement plans. [Section 1111(D) (1)(2)]

BlueSky Online will utilize the annual parent satisfaction surveys to determine targeted areas of support. It should be noted that while many of our families do not complete the Free/Reduced Forms to indicate their income level, it is suspected that our population of students eligible for F/R is significantly higher than reported.

Once data has been collected via the annual parent satisfaction survey in the spring, our Title Team will create the *District and School Parent and Family Engagement Policy Feedback Form* that will be sent to families in the fall of the following school year. This form will give families an avenue to express their level of interest and involvement within the Title programs and support offerings. Families will also be given the option to meet with the Title Team in-person and/or online depending on their level of interest.

- 3) BlueSky Online will coordinate technical assistance and other support that is necessary to build the capacity of staff in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. This could include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders and philanthropic organizations or individuals with this experience in effectively engaging families in education.

BlueSky will work with the technology department, Response to Intervention Committee, Finance Committee, and Title Team to coordinate interventions and support based on feedback determined via the *District and School Parent and Family Engagement Policy Feedback Form* sent in the fall.

Once the needs areas are determined by all stakeholders, BlueSky will work with all involved to ensure fidelity of programming is implemented in order to meet the needs of our identified students.

- 4) BlueSky Online will coordinate and integrate with federal, state and local programs, to implement effective parent and family engagement strategies that improve student achievement and school performance.

BlueSky will offer a number of flexible meeting options, such as asynchronous online Google Form for feedback, online meetings, meetings in the morning or evening (during parent-teacher conferences), and may provide, with funds provided under this part, as such services relate to parental involvement including childcare services.

- 5) BlueSky Online will take the following actions to conduct, with the engagement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy (programs/activities) in improving the academic achievement of students served with Title 1 funds and the schools.

Reviewing and evaluating the parent and family engagement activities/programs:

- a. Identify barriers and the needs of parents and family members that keep them from participating in their child's education, especially the economically disadvantaged, disabled, limited English proficiency or any racial or ethnic minority.
- b. Identify the needs of the Title I parents and family members to assist the learning of their children and the teachers and school staff.
- c. Identify strategies to support successful school and family interactions.

Since the beginning of BlueSky's existence, parents have been encouraged to be involved and given opportunities to voice their opinions. Parents are encouraged to serve on the BlueSky School Board, are invited to attend monthly field trips and onsite gatherings, and attend all student meetings with teachers, counselors, and advisors. Many of these meetings are done virtually and scheduled at flexible times to accommodate both parent and student schedules.

BlueSky utilizes a three-person system of support including an academic advisor (similar to a homeroom teacher), guidance counselor, and social worker. This system allows us to envelop the whole student, extending to the family in an effort to offer support specific to each student's need. When students are identified as having a disability, they are offered a fourth person (a case manager) to meet their disability needs. BlueSky also prides itself on offering translators and translated documents in parents' preferred language.

Parents are actively informed and involved in their children's learning progress through ongoing parent conferences, real-time technology including academic progress dashboards, weekly advisor communications, 1:1 information sessions, monthly newsletters, emails, and Moodle banner postings.

- 6) BlueSky will use the findings of the Google Form regarding its parental involvement plan and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement plan.

BlueSky Online will conduct staff reviews three times during each academic year as outlined in the Q-Comp Action Plan. Parents will evaluate the school and staff on measures related to Title I programs, including identifying barriers to parental involvement. BlueSky Online and its Title I parents will use this feedback during each review process of the parent involvement plan and incorporate suggestions, changes, and additions to the plan as provided by parent input in the annual spring satisfaction survey. BlueSky's leadership team will be responsible for conducting this survey each spring. The results of the spring survey will be used to develop the online Google Form sent to families in the fall. In addition to the Google Form, families will have more opportunities to be part of the Title 1 committee within any capacity they prefer. The parent Leadership Team will aid in developing the Google Form to ensure it fully addresses parent involvement and ideas taken from the spring satisfaction survey.

- 7) BlueSky Online will involve parents in the decisions regarding funds reserved for parental involvement activities. This could be establishing a parent advisory board that represents the population of Title I parents and family members, that develops, evaluates and reviews or revises the parent and family engagement policy.

- 8) BlueSky Online will involve parents in the planning and review of the school improvement plan and the joint development of the schoolwide plan to maximize involvement by using their preferred method of engagement. If the schoolwide plan is not satisfactory to the parents, parents will have the opportunity to submit comments on the plan before the final plan is submitted for approval. [Section 1114(b)]
  
- 9) BlueSky will provide assistance to parents of Title students:
  - a. Timely information about programs offered to engage in their child's education.
  - b. An explanation of the curriculum, state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments, and the achievement levels of the state academic standards.
  - c. If they request, opportunities for regular meetings to hear their suggestions and participate in decisions related to their child's education.

### Part III. Description of the Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement

BlueSky will jointly develop with Title I parents a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement to meet the state academic standards. The compact should:

1. Describe the curriculum and instruction that help their student meet the state standards, identify where their child is performing and discuss ways the parent can support their child's education at home and at school.

Through the use of BlueSky's 3-Person Support Team, students who struggle or have barriers to their progress are quickly identified through their advisor or another staff member. The Advisor is the primary source of contact and is able to connect families to individualized supports such as technology supports, mental health supports, local or state aid available, or even scheduling 1:1 support sessions with teachers to aid in progress. Advisors also regularly attend professional development opportunities to support their understanding of supplying varied tier 1 and 2 supports using the MTSS model.

BlueSky conducts Student Support Plan, Attendance, and Probation Plan meetings with families and stakeholders to discuss student progress on an as-needed and on-demand basis. Once a student earns 3 absences, as identified by the number of assignments submitted, it triggers the advisor to check in and schedule a meeting with families. These meetings are an integral part of the BlueSky support system. Report cards, classroom observations and barriers are discussed during these meetings. Parents are encouraged to attend and are usually able to determine stumbling blocks or barriers specific to their student. Interventions or adaptations are discussed while supplying a supportive and whole-child approach to learning.

BlueSky Online will conduct annual parent-teacher conferences during which time parents have the opportunity to discuss their individual student's needs.

Parents can log into their 'Parent Portal' to view student progress, attendance data and notes, on-demand. They are also contacted at a minimum weekly by their child's advisor. Student test data and report cards are mailed twice annually at the end of each semester.

Parents have access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class and observation of classroom activities. BlueSky always welcomes and continually encourages parents to participate in all school

activities, volunteer at the school, and participate in all aspects of the school.

#### Part IV. Accessibility

BlueSky Online will meet the requirements of parent and family engagement of Title I, to the extent practicable, we will 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 providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents can understand.

1. BlueSky's Diversity/Equity and Inclusion committee continually reviews and updates policies while reviewing with an Inclusion lens.
2. For events requiring transportation, BlueSky will pay reasonable and necessary transportation expenses to enable parents and students to participate in school-related activities, meetings and conferences.
3. In order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their child's education, BlueSky Online will arrange school meetings at a variety of times to include evenings and early mornings to accommodate all scheduling conflicts.
4. BlueSky Online will provide translation and interpretation services to non-English-speaking families to maximize involvement in all school events.
5. BlueSky Online will provide other reasonable supports for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

#### Part V. Adoption

The BlueSky Online Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I programs.

In the fall of every school year, following receipt of the *District and School Parent and Family Engagement Policy Feedback Form*, the BlueSky Online Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be in effect for the period of the school year.

BlueSky Online will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I children and make it available to the community.

***Legal References:*** 20 U.S.C. § 6318 (Parent and Family Engagement)