
PARENT/GUARDIAN AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Pathways Academy Charter School (“Pathways” or the “Charter School”) has developed this written Parent and Family Engagement Policy (“Policy”) with the joint development and agreement of parents/guardians and families (“Educational Partners”). Pathways will distribute this Policy to the Educational Partners by posting it on the school website. This Policy describes the means for carrying out the following Parent and Family Engagement opportunities. It shall be evaluated annually and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of the Educational Partners and the School.

Pathways Expectations and Objectives

In establishing the Charter School’s expectations and objectives for meaningful parent/guardian and family involvement, Pathways has established the following practices:

1. Pathways involves Educational Partners in the joint development of the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), and comprehensive support and improvement/targeted/additional support and improvement plan, as applicable, through:
 - Educational Partner Input Meetings
 - Educational Partner LCAP Input survey
 - School Site Council or Parent Advisory Committee, as applicable
2. Pathways provides the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity within the Charter School in planning and implementing effective parent/guardian and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents/guardians and family members in their student’s education and may consist of:
 - Parent/Student Trainings and webinars
 - School Communications
 - Development of the LCAP
3. Through the strategies herein, Pathways coordinates and integrates parent/guardian and family engagement strategies to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant federal, state, and local laws and programs such as:
 - 5 CCR section 11308: English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) *as applicable
 - Education Code section 52059.5 *et seq.*: Local Control Accountability Plan
4. Pathways conducts, with the meaningful involvement of Educational Partners, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Policy in improving the academic quality at the Charter School. This evaluation includes:
 - Educational Partner surveys

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- Local Control Accountability Plan engagement
 - Educational Partner Input Meetings
 - Revisiting this parent/guardian and family engagement policy annually
5. Pathways conducts, with the meaningful involvement of Educational Partners, an annual evaluation to identify barriers to greater participation by parents/guardians and families (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). This evaluation includes:
- Consultation with ELAC *as applicable
 - Consultation with School Site Council or Parent Advisory Committee, as applicable
 - Review of Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) engagement
 - Educational Partner Surveys
 - Educational Partner Input Meetings
 - School communications
6. Pathways conducts, with the meaningful involvement of Educational Partners, an annual evaluation to identify the needs of parents/guardians and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with Charter School personnel and teachers. This evaluation includes:
- Review of Parent/Student Trainings and webinars
 - Educational Partner surveys
 - Consultation with ELAC *as applicable
 - Consultation with School Site Council or Parent Advisory Committee, as applicable
 - Educational Partner Input Meetings
 - Review of Local Control Accountability Plan engagement
7. Pathways conducts, with the meaningful involvement of Educational Partners, an annual evaluation to identify strategies to support successful Charter School and family interactions. This evaluation includes:
- Educational Partner surveys
 - Consultation with ELAC *as applicable
 - Consultation with School Site Council or Parent Advisory Committee, as applicable
 - Educational Partner Input Meetings
 - Local Control Accountability Plan Input Survey

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8. Pathways uses the findings of the annual evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective Educational Partner engagement, and to revise, if necessary, the Parent and Family Engagement Policy by:
 - Leadership team evaluates the data received from the following items and makes the needed adjustments to increase effective parental/student and family engagement:
 - Educational Partner surveys
 - Consultation with ELAC *as applicable
 - Consultation School Site Council or Parent Advisory Committee, as applicable
 - Educational Partner Input Meetings
 - Review of Local Control Accountability Plan engagement
9. Pathways involves parents/guardians in the activities of the Charter School to adequately represent the needs of the population. Such activities include:
 - Educational Partner Input Meetings
 - ELAC *as applicable
 - School Site Council or Parent Advisory Committee, as applicable

Involvement of Students and Parents in the School Program

To involve Educational Partners, the following practices have been established:

- Pathways convenes an annual meeting at a convenient time, to which all parents/guardians and family members shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform them of the Charter School's participation under Part A, and to explain those requirements and the rights of parents/guardians and families to be involved.
- Pathways offers a flexible number of meetings for Educational Partners, such as meetings in the morning or afternoon.
- Pathways involves Educational Partners in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.
 - This is completed through the following:
 - Educational Partner surveys
 - Educational Partner Input Meetings
 - Review of the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) engagement
- Pathways timely provides Educational Partners with information about Title I Programs, including through:
 - Pathways School Communications
 - Pathways website

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- Board Approved Policies
- Student Handbook

- Pathways provides Educational Partners with a description and explanation of the curriculum used at the Charter School, the assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet. This explanation is included in:
 - Student Handbook
 - Pathways website
 - Pathways School Communication

- Pathways provides opportunities for Educational Partner Input meetings, if requested by Educational Partners, that allow them to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their students. These meetings may include:
 - Meetings that will be held virtually with email invitations being sent out to all Educational Partners
 - Local Control Accountability Program (LCAP) Input Survey
 - Educational Partner Input Meetings

While involving Educational Partners as described above, Pathways also recognizes that, in accordance with California Education Code Section 47605(n), a charter school may encourage parental involvement, but shall notify the parents and guardians of applicant students and currently enrolled students that parental involvement is not a requirement for acceptance to, or continued enrollment at, the Charter School.

School-Parent Compact

Pathways has developed with Educational Partners the following School-Parent Compact (“Compact”). The Compact outlines how parents/guardians and families, the entire Charter School staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. It describes specific ways the Charter School and families will partner to help children achieve the State’s high academic standards.

1. Pathways is responsible for providing high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables students to meet the challenging State academic standards.
2. Parents/Guardians are responsible for supporting their student’s learning by participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time.
3. It is important that parents/guardians and teachers communicate on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum, monthly learning period meetings; frequent reports on student

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progress; access to staff; opportunities for parents to participate in their child's education; and regular communication between family members and school staff, in a language, to the extent practical, that family members can understand.

Building Capacity for Involvement

Pathways engages Educational Partners in meaningful interactions with the Charter School. The Charter School supports a partnership among staff, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. To help reach these goals, Pathways has established the following practices.

1. Pathways provides Educational Partners with assistance in understanding topics such as challenging state academic standards, state and local assessments, and how to monitor and improve the achievement of their children. This assistance is provided in:
 - Educational Partner Input Meetings
 - Student Handbook
 - Parent/Student/Teacher meetings
2. Pathways provides Educational Partners with materials and training, as appropriate, to foster student/parental involvement, to help them work to improve their student's achievement. These materials/trainings are included in:
 - Educational Partner Input Meetings
 - Pathways School Communication
 - Student/Parent/Teacher meetings
3. With the assistance of Educational Partners, Pathways educates staff members about the value of parent contributions and how to reach out, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and the Charter School. This education includes:
 - Staff professional development
 - Staff participation in the Educational Partner Input Meetings
4. Pathways coordinates and integrates, to the extent feasible and appropriate, parent involvement programs and activities with other federal, state, and local programs, and conducts other activities to encourage and support parents/guardians in more fully participating in the education of their children. These activities include:
 - Educational Partner Input Meetings
 - Student/Parent/Teacher meetings
5. Pathways distributes information related to Charter School and parent/guardian programs, meetings, and other activities to Educational Partners in a format and language that the parents/guardians can understand.

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- Meetings will be held virtually with email invitations being sent out to all Educational Partners.
 - Email invitations will be translated, as needed, in a language that parents understand.
 - Pathways provides support for parental/student involvement activities requested by Educational Partners.
 - Educational Partner surveys
 - Educational Partner Input Meetings
6. Pathways provides other reasonable support for parental involvement activities requested by Educational Partners, including via:
- Educational Partner surveys
 - Educational Partner Input Meetings
 - Student/Parent/Teacher Meetings
 - Counseling Department Webinars

Accessibility

Pathways provides opportunities for the participation of all Educational Partners, including parents/guardians and family members with limited English proficiency, parents/guardians and family members with disabilities, and parents/guardians and family members of migratory students. Information and school reports are provided in a format and language designed for parents/guardians and families to understand, including by:

- Digital format that can be translated with the use of technology
- Information is presented in a way that is understandable by parents/guardians
- Information is presented visually and verbally, as applicable
- Information presented is translated as needed