

Title 1 Local Education Agency Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Westinghouse Arts Academy Charter School, also referred to as the “LEA” in this policy, is a public charter school that receives Title 1 funds to support its Title 1 programs. All Local Education Agencies (LEA) receiving Title I funds are required under Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to develop a written Parent and Family Engagement Policy for the LEA. The ESSA states that the LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy must be jointly developed with parents and family members, incorporated into the LEA plan (Consolidated Application), and distributed to parents of participating children in a format and language that parents can understand. Such programs, activities, and procedures shall be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children. In order to maintain compliance with ESSA and promote best practices within the LEA, Westinghouse Arts Academy Charter School asserts that it will comply with all previously outlined mandates as well as the following:

The LEA will involve parents and family members in the joint development of the Title I Plan (Title I Application) through a variety of methods to ensure that all families have opportunities to participate in Title 1 planning (ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(A)). These methods may include surveys (electronic and paper), focus groups, and meetings. Open communication between the LEA and families also permits and encourages families to make suggestions at any time. An annual meeting will be held to review the Title 1 Plan, all related policies, and the School, Parent, and Student Compact.

The LEA will involve parents and family members in the process of school review and improvement through a variety of methods to ensure that all families have opportunities to participate in school improvement discussions and planning (ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(A)). These methods may include surveys (electronic and paper), focus groups, and meetings as well as comprehensive and strategic planning initiatives.

The LEA will provide technical assistance to support the planning and implementation of effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance (ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(B)). This support may include training on the use of the school’s student information system (SIS) and learning management system (LMS) so that parents can access and understand their students’ grades and academic achievement. The LEA will also utilize technology to communicate and interact with families. Technical assistance will be offered at school curriculum nights and Title 1 events as well as on an as-needed basis.

The LEA will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with other Federal, State, and local laws and programs (ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(C)). The LEA is committed to aligning its parent and family engagement strategies with other initiatives, including, but not limited to, the state required comprehensive plan, special education training

and support, and school safety planning.

The LEA will conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and the effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents and family members, with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. Also to be addressed are the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions (ESSA Section 1116(a)(2)(D)(i-iii)). The evaluation will occur at the end of the school year, with results and analysis shared shortly after the conclusion of the school year. Results will influence the LEA's Title 1 application for the following school year, which has a priority due date of July 1.

The LEA will use the findings of the annual evaluation to design evidence based strategies for more effective parent and family involvement, and revise, if necessary, the Parent and Family Engagement Policy (ESSA , Section 1116(a)(2)(E)). Families will be provided with opportunities to discuss and ask questions about the results as well as provide additional feedback. The LEA may further engage families in focus groups, meetings, or additional surveys to gather more information as well as present new ideas and findings.

The LEA will involve parents and family members in the activities of the school, including, but not limited to, the establishment of a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members to adequately represent the needs of the population; revising; and reviewing the Parent and Family Engagement Policy (ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(F)). The LEA will also work collaboratively with the Family Teacher Organization (FTO) to support student and family oriented events at the school.