

# Falls Lake Academy



## School Parent and Family Engagement Policy

*Falls Lake Academy  
School Year 2018-2019  
Revision Date 11/13/18*

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Falls Lake Academy** receives Title I, Part A funds and must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by section 1116(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the district.

### **Falls Lake Academy agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:**

- Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the targeted assistance or schoolwide program plan.
- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school, distribute it to the parents of participating children, and make the parent and family engagement policy available to the local community.
- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, 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 ESSA in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of ESSA is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.
- Be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

*Parent and family engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:*

- *Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning,*
- *Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school,*

- *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, and*
- *Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of ESSA.*

**Required School Parent and Family Engagement Policy Components**

The school parent and family engagement policy includes a description of how the school will implement or accomplish each of the following components:

- **Jointly Developed**

**Falls Lake Academy** will take the following actions to involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by parents, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

*Parents will be involved in the development of the school parent and family engagement policy through the Parent Advisory Council. Parents will be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of parent and family engagement programs in June of each year.*

- **Annual Title I Meeting**

**Falls Lake Academy** will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school’s Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents’ requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

*Falls Lake Academy will hold the Annual Title I meeting to inform parents of the requirements of Title I and the school’s participation as well as the parents’ rights to be involved in the fall of every school year. The Annual Title I meeting will not be used to ask for parent input, but will be provided as an opportunity to disseminate information and distribute copies of the revised parent and family engagement policy.*

- **Communications**

**Falls Lake Academy** will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children the following:

- Timely information about the Title I programs,
- Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement, and
- 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 the parents can understand.

*Falls Lake Academy will provide digital copies and print copies of our Family Engagement Policy for parents. The school will make every attempt to provide parents this information in their native language.*

- **School-Parent Compact**

**Falls Lake Academy** will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

*Falls Lake Academy will utilize the school's charter and parent input to develop the School-Parent Compact.*

- **Reservation of Funds (only applicable to districts with Title I allocations of \$500,000 or more)**

If applicable, **Falls Lake Academy** will take the following actions to 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 parent and family engagement is spent by:

*If the district receives more than \$500,000 in Title I allocation, then it must reserve 1 percent for parent and family engagement activities. Falls Lake Academy does not receive more than \$500,000 in Title I funds.*

- **Coordination of Services**

**Falls Lake Academy** will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool 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:

*Falls Lake Academy will coordinate with local Pre-School programs through our Student Services Department to encourage Early Childhood Education. FLA will also partner with VGCC, Granville County Library Systems, local Granville County Government and Barns and Nobel to ensure support programs are in place for parents.*

- **Building Capacity of Parents**

**Falls Lake Academy** will build the parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

- Provide parents with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards;
- Provide materials and training to help parents to work with their child to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including

- education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement; and
- Provide assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
    - The challenging State’s academic 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 to improve the achievement of their child.

The following opportunities are available for families and community members:

- **Open House/Curriculum Night-** Curriculum Night is an opportunity for families to visit with classroom teachers to learn more about grade level expectation for their students.
  - **Instructional Nights-** Parents are invited to attend informational sessions for various topics throughout the year that support student achievement. Some examples of instructional nights include Advanced Placement Night, AIG Night, FAFSA Information Night, Career and College Promise Program Information Night, Read to Achieve Information Night, or other subject specific information sessions.
  - **Monthly Board of Director’s Meetings-** Our BOD meets the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm in the FLA media center. All families and community members are invited to attend.
  - **Presentations of Learning-** Our school is a project based learning environment. Our students present their learning and share their journey with parents and community members several times throughout the year.
  - **Field Trips-** At Falls Lake Academy, we believe that students learn by doing. Field trips are encouraged across grade levels. Because we do not have bus transportation, parental and community involvement is crucial for success.
  - **Student Led Conferences-** Students present a portfolio of their work to parents and family members twice a year. These presentations represent the learning progressions and personal reflection of the students on their progress.
- **Building Capacity of School Staff**  
**Falls Lake Academy** will provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school by:

*Teachers will participate in professional development laid out yearly in the professional development plan.*

**Falls Lake Academy** will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:

- **Grandparents Day-** Our elementary and middle school students host a special lunch for our grandparents once a year in September.
- **Flight Crew-** The Flight Crew is our Athletic Booster club. This organization supports the athletic program in middle and high school. Parents and community members are invited to participate in meetings and planned activities.

- **FLA PTA-** The Falls Lake Academy Parent/Teacher organization is very active within the community and on our campus. This group plans multiple community involvement activities throughout the year. These events include the Welcome back to school event, Dances for students, The Fall Festival, Reindeer Games, BINGO night, Spring Car Show, and the annual Color Run in Butner, NC. The PTA encourages community members and parents across grade levels to become involved in the many activities throughout the year.
- **Band Booster Club-** The band boosters support the Band program at Falls Lake Academy. Multiple fundraisers are planned throughout the year that assist with the purchasing of musical instruments.
- **Book Fairs-** Falls Lake Academy offers two scholastic book fairs each year for families and community members. Our students also participate in the Barnes and Nobles Book Fair in Briar Creek each December. During that fair, our band plays holiday songs, our art students have art on display, and hot chocolate is served while shoppers enjoy their holiday shopping at Barnes and Nobles.
- **Bike/Walk to school Days-** Twice a year, our families partner with the school and local public safety officers and public officials to walk or bike to school. This event encourages safe biking and walking practices as well as overall health and well-being for our students.
- **Volunteer Opportunities-** There are multiple opportunities to volunteer your time at Falls Lake Academy. Some of the many opportunities include volunteering to serve lunch, helping in the classroom, serving as a guest speaker for career and college discussions, working the gates at athletic events, or assisting with carpool. As part of our safety policies and procedures, we ask all volunteers to complete a volunteer background check form and return to our secretary before we schedule your volunteer time.

### **Building Capacity for Involvement**

*The School Parent and Family Engagement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school, in meaningful consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under Section 1116(e) of ESSA. Indicate which of the following discretionary (optional) parent and family engagement policy components the school will implement improve family-school partnerships:*

- Train parents to enhance the engagement of other parents through the PTA and PAC.