

## District/School Parental Involvement Policy

### I. General Guidelines: Thomas Academy agrees to implement the following statutory requirements for Parental Involvement in accordance with Title I Part A, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA):

- The charter school will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children. **These programs include, but are not limited to: Annual Title I Parent Meeting, parent conference nights, activities held in cooperation with the Boys and Girls Homes of NC where all students and parents may attend, evening events that support the training and cooperation of the parents/guardians, and weekly Friday Morning Meetings where parents are encouraged to attend.**
- Consistent with section 1118, the charter school will work to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent-student compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA. **See attached School-Parent-Student Compact.**
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the charter school 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 alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand. **The EC staff and administrative staff will make certain that parents are informed in numerous ways of upcoming opportunities for involvement and to stay informed of “happenings in the school.” A student newsletter goes home to parents each week, a daily point sheet goes home with each student, and parents/guardians are encouraged to subscribe to a free text line for weekly notifications. School Report Card and other notification will go home.**
- The school will involve the parents of the children served 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 school. **2 parent representatives will serve on the School Improvement Team that meets monthly. Monthly updates will be provided to parents by means of the student newsletter.**
- The school will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:  
***Parental involvement means that 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; Parents/Guardians will be informed daily of their child's progress through their point cards. Progress reports will go home at least every 4 weeks, likely more frequently in many cases. Parents/Guardians will also be able to access their student progress through the Home Base Parent Portal for the 2023-2024 school year.*
- b. *that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; Parents/Guardians are encouraged to volunteer throughout the school day and with various activities with the school including, but not limited to: weekly incentives, athletic events, recognition ceremonies, field trips, and Friday Morning Meetings.*
- c. *that parents are full partner's 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; 2 Parents/Guardians serve on the School Improvement Team and on the Parent Advisory Board.*

## **II. Description of Implementation**

1. **Thomas Academy** will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
  - *2 Parents/Guardian representatives will serve on the School Improvement Team and on the Parent Advisory Committee. One representative will be from the Boys and Girls Homes of NC staff and one will be a community parent. These members will also be invited to attend the monthly Thomas Academy Board meetings.*
2. **Thomas Academy** will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 116 of the ESEA:
  - *Parents/Guardians will complete a yearly survey which will be used in the implementation of goals for the upcoming school year. This feedback will also be addressed in the monthly meetings.*
3. **Thomas Academy** 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:
  - *Parents/Guardians will be encouraged to:*
    - *Attend quarterly Conference Nights*
    - *Volunteer during weekly incentive events*
    - *Attend educational field trips with students*
    - *Read the weekly student newsletter and help their child be successful by being aware of weekly curriculum being covered in all classes*
    - *Obtain access to the Home Base Parent Portal for the 2023-2024 school year*
4. **Thomas Academy** will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental

involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to great participation by parents in parental involvement activities (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). The school will use the findings of 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.

***Parents/Guardians are encouraged to participate in an annual survey at the end of each year to evaluate effectiveness and any concerns that need to be addressed for the upcoming school year in the School Improvement Plan. This survey will be provided and tallied by the administration and results will be made available to parents/ Parents/Guardians will also e a part of the problem-solving process through the creation of new goals for the upcoming school year.***

5. **Thomas Academy** will build the schools' and parent's 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:
6. The school will, with the assistance of its Title, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph –
  - the State's academic content standards,
  - the State's student academic achievement standards,
  - the State and local academic assessments including alternative assessments,
  - the requirements of Part A,
  - how to monitor their child's progress, and
  - how to work with educators:  
***(Parents/Guardians will be provided information at the beginning of the school year that has links to NCDPI which describe content standards for each grade level and assessment information, as well as further information regarding Title I. They will be given information about which courses have EOGs, EOCs, and NC Final Exams. They will be given information on how to access the Home Base Parent Portal and a calendar for the school year, including dates for Parent Conference Nights and contact information for teachers and staff. Additionally, contact information will be included on the weekly student newsletter.)***
7. The school will 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:  
***(Parents/Guardians will be provided this information in a less formal setting that will typically take place one on one in the Parent/Teacher conference to meet the individual needs of the students and parents/guardians.)***

8. The school will 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 how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:  
***(Whenever possible staff will receive training either on site or at conferences held throughout the state to help them better meet the needs of their students. Monthly staff development days will be built into the calendar on the third Friday of each month to allow for these staff development opportunities.)***
9. The school will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with agencies 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:  
***(Staff will attend training through charter school meetings and other required meetings throughout the region and state to stay abreast of opportunities and requirements with state and local agencies.)***
10. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent – programs, meetings, and other activities – is sent to 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:  
***(In addition to the Annual Title I Parent Meeting and Parent/Teacher Conferences, a weekly student newsletter will go home to parents informing them of any upcoming events/opportunities as well as the weekly curriculum topics for all of the classes.)***

#### ADOPTION

This Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs.

This policy was adopted by Thomas Academy on 4/30/14. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before the end of the first school month each year.