

North Star Academy Title I Parent Involvement Policy

As a Title I Schoolwide district, North Star Academy implements a parent involvement policy in adherence to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, offering programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). These programs, activities and procedures are planned and operated annually with the consultation of the Parent Council and the Title I Stakeholders Committee. This Parental Involvement Policy amends the Parent Handbook, distributed to all parents, and the School-Parent Compact. North Star Academy commits to the following:

- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, North Star Academy 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.
- North Star Academy defines parental involvement as the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—
 1. that parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;
 2. that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;
 3. that 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;
 4. the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.
- North Star Academy implements effective parental involvement activities throughout the year to improve student academic achievement and school performance. These activities include but are not limited to ongoing Report Card Nights, Parent University orientations, literacy nights, and college prep evening events for parents. North Star Academy recognizes the important role that parents play in their child’s success, and requires parents to meet with teachers at the end of each grading period to monitor their child’s progress.
- If the plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, North Star Academy will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- North Star Academy, as part of its Title I schoolwide plan, will involve the parents of all children 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 schools. This discussion will generally take place at the annual Title I meeting, in conjunction with North Star Academy’s Back to School Night.

In addition to the above, and as described in detail in the Parent Handbook and School-Parent Compact, North Star Academy parents are involved in the community in the following ways:

- **MIDDLE SCHOOL WEEKLY INFORMATION FOLDERS:** Every week, parents receive a green folder with all announcements, permission slips, a monthly calendar, and a weekly North Star

Paycheck that shows how well their child(ren) did behaviorally. These folders are signed and sent back to school as evidence that the parent has received and read the information. Over 95% of the parents report reading the information in their folders on a regular basis.

- **SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT:** Parents of North Star students voluntarily sign the School-Parent Compact, pledging their support for and involvement in the educational program for their children.
- **PARENTS PICK UP REPORT CARDS AT SCHOOL:** All North Star parents pick up their children's report cards at the end of each trimester or quarter during the school year. At that time, all faculty members are available to discuss with parents their children's progress. Parents also attend teacher-scheduled conferences during trimester mid-points, for updates on their children's work.
- **PARENTS ATTEND WORKSHOPS TO SUPPORT THEIR WORK AS PARENTS:** School-wide events for parents (beyond Parent Council meetings) included high school enrollment meetings, Parent University (for all incoming 5th grade parents), Back to School Nights, Awards Nights and New Student Orientation. The elementary campuses host two mandatory workshops for parents of incoming kindergarteners to help train them on how to help scholars with literacy and mathematics homework at an age when parent help with homework is essential.

Parents are actively involved in the North Star community. North Star Academy parents are eligible to participate in parent-elected Parent Council and attend its activities, events, and workshops. Parent Councils meet regularly to organize events and coordinate school fundraisers. Parent Council representatives sit on the Title I Stakeholder committee, which, along with the Board of Trustees, annually develops, reviews, and improves North Star Academy's Title I schoolwide plan and parent involvement plan.

North Star Academy will conduct an annual evaluation of its Parent Involvement Policy. At the annual Title I Stakeholder Committee meeting, Parent Council representatives participate actively in this evaluation of parent involvement events, communication, and policies, in addition to the thorough evaluation of North Star Academy's Title I Schoolwide program as a whole.

North Star Academy will build the community's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

- A. North Star Academy will provide assistance to parents of children, in understanding topics such as the State's academic content and achievement standards, and the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments. In addition, North Star Academy will work with parents to help them monitor their child's progress and collaborate with educators to further their child's progress.
- B. North Star Academy 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. This includes the periodic offering of Parent University orientations, as well as college-prep evening events, which are open to all parents.

- C. North Star Academy will educate its teachers, 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 in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools. These trainings will focus on North Star Academy's ongoing parental involvement events, including Parent University, Report Card Nights, and college-prep evening events.

- E. North Star Academy will ensure that information related at school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is shared in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

This Title I Parent Involvement Policy supplements the 2013-14 North Star Academy School-Parent Compact and Parent Handbook, which outline in detail the expectations of North Star Academy parents, and the opportunities for involvement that are offered as part of the Title I schoolwide plan.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

North Star Academy, and the parents of the students, all of whom participate in its schoolwide activities, services, and programs funded by Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), agree that this compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the 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 that will help children achieve the State's high standards.

This school-parent compact is in effect during school year 2013-14.

School Responsibilities

North Star Academy will:

- 1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet the State's student academic achievement standards as follows:**
 - North Star Academy works on a longer school day and a longer school year. Instead of the normal 180 days, North Star operates from late August through June, with a day that begins at 7:30 am with the first dismissal at 3:30 pm.
 - All middle school students will receive 425 minutes of Mathematics instruction, 425 minutes of English instruction, 275 minutes of Language instruction, 275 minutes of History instruction and 275 minutes of Science instruction per week. These totals translate to 85 minutes of Math and English instruction per day, and 55 minutes each of History, language and Science instruction per day.
 - Structure and routine are the basis for strong learning environments. In knowing this, North Star Academy has created classroom structures that are universal to all classes despite grade or subject, such as beginning each class with a "Do Now" activity, and employing oral drills regularly.
 - North Star's curricula are aligned to the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards, the North Star Standards, the North Star Assessments, the TerraNova Skills Test, as well as the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK). In all of these ways, we are getting each child ready to succeed in a college-preparatory environment.
- 2. Hold parent-teacher conferences during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement.** Specifically, those conferences will be held in conjunction with Report Card Nights following each grading period.
- 3. Provide parents with frequent reports on their children's progress.** After each grading period, parents are required to attend a Report Card Night in order to receive their child's report card. During these times, parents and guardians must attend a twenty minute conference with their child's teachers to discuss their progress. It is mandatory that parents attend their child's report card conference.

4. **Provide parents reasonable access to staff.** North Star Academy has an open door policy. They are more than willing to meet with parents to discuss issues at the parent's request. Parents seeking to set up a meeting should call the main office and leave a message for the teacher, or they should call the teacher directly.
5. **Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and to observe classroom activities.** Parent visitors must check in with the Main Office if they wish to visit a class. Parents are welcome to observe classes at any time; however, we ask that parents do not interrupt instruction during this time. Any and all visitors must display a visitor's pass on their clothes at all times.

Parent Responsibilities

We, as parents, will support our children's learning in the following ways:

- Attend a chat with the principal to review the parent handbook.
- Reinforce North Star's Code of Conduct and STARS behaviors at home.
- Attend mandatory workshops that will focus on math and/or literacy, and/or attend mandatory Parent University (dependent on child's grade level).
- Read with our child (or encourage them to read independently) for at least 20 minutes every day, including weekends.
- Make sure our child completes the nightly Life's Work (homework), sign the Life's Work (homework) folder, and return it daily.
- Attend all mandatory report card conferences to pick up our child's report card each grading period and meet with our child's teacher at the scheduled date and time.
- Actively participate in school-wide fundraisers and school-wide performances, as planned by each campus based on grade level.
- Effectively communicate with our child's teacher by responding to letters or phone calls within 24 hours of receiving the letter or phone call.

North Star Parents, while not required, are asked to support their child's learning in the following ways:

- Establish a daily routine for our child.
- Provide a quiet space for our child to study.
- Provide positive reinforcement of student progress and success.
- Provide a library of books and/or frequent trips to the library and/or book stores.
- Discuss academics and student work among family members.
- Help our child take responsibility for his/her actions. Stress the importance of telling the truth. Remind our child that no one is perfect and everyone makes mistakes.
- Check with our child's teacher for actual facts regarding a problem. A student may alter a situation to appear more innocent.
- Chaperone field trips and volunteer at the school.
- Support other North Star families.

Student Responsibilities

We, as students, will share the responsibility to improve our academic achievement and achieve the State's high standards. Specifically, we will:

- Live by the values of North Star Academy: Caring, Respect, Responsibility, Courage, and Justice.
- Be on time to school and each of our classes and activities every day
- Work hard in our studies
- Be prepared for class
- Be on task in class
- Participate in all activities
- Be responsible for completing assignments on time, accurately, and neatly.
- Promptly inform parents/guardians of the Life's Work (homework) assignment by showing them the daily Life's Work (homework) log.
- Complete missed assignments due to absences.
- Read every day.
- Wear school uniforms at all times.

School

Parent(s)

Student

Date

Date

Date

(PLEASE NOTE THAT SIGNATURES ARE NOT REQUIRED)