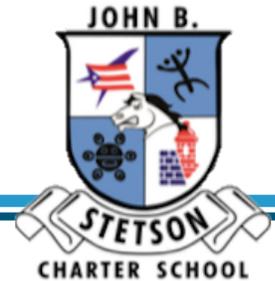


JOHN B. STETSON CHARTER SCHOOL

An ASPIRA, Inc. of Pennsylvania School
3200 B Street, Philadelphia, PA 19134
Phone: (215)291-4720 Fax: (215)291-4168



Andrea Gonzalez-Kirwin
Superintendent, ASPIRA of PA Schools

Thomas Mullin, Principal
Glenda Marrero, Assistant Principal

PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY 2017-2018

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Each school in its School-wide Parental Involvement Policy must establish the school's expectations for parental involvement. [Section 1116(a)(2), ESSA.]

The John B. Stetson Charter School agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1116, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1116(d) of the ESSA.
- The school district will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its John B. Stetson Charter School plan developed under section 1116 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools 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 1116 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the School District's plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1116 of the ESSA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school

district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.

- The school district will 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 parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with

Parental involvement means the 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;*
- (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- (C) 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;*
- (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1116 of the ESSA.*

- The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in the State.

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

[NOTE: The School- wide Parental Involvement Policy must include a description of how the school will implement or accomplish each of the following components. [Section 1118(a)(2), ESEA.] Regardless of the format the school chooses to use, a description of each of the following components below must be included in order to satisfy statutory requirements.]

1. The **John B. Stetson Charter School** will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its school-wide parental involvement plan under section 1116 of the ESSA:

In August Stetson holds a Community Day during which time the staff meets with parents/guardians to prepare for the upcoming year. At this event,

various organizations are present with information and supplies for the students and their families. At Back to School Night, parents/guardians are provided with information regarding academics, programs, and assessments. Monthly, Stetson holds Breakfast with Families as well as ESOL Family Nights. During these two events, parents are provided with resources regarding school assessment programs. At all of these events, the PTA is advertised, discussed, and current members of the PTA are present to answer questions and recruit new volunteers.

2. The **John B. Stetson Charter School** will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

There are PTA meetings held each week, during which time the elected parents and parent volunteers meet to discuss and plan ways to improve the school. The PTA is involved in attending, as well as recruiting, other parents to attend School Reform Commission meetings that are held every month at the School District of Philadelphia. In addition, each month, parents are invited to meetings to at the school to review and discuss the findings of school review, assessment findings, and improvement plans.

3. The **John B. Stetson Charter School** 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:
 - In collaboration with the Grants Compliance Monitor, School-Community Liaisons, Philadelphia Home and School Council (PHSC), Title I Parent Advisory Committee, The Philadelphia Right to Know Educational Task Force, and other parent groups, provide workshops to schools on parent engagement.
 - Provide professional development by parents/caregivers for new and existing principals and other administrators on how to develop promising partnerships with parents/caregivers.
 - Train new and existing staff with parental engagement duties (e.g., School Improvement Support Liaisons, School-Community Liaisons, School Community Coordinators, and Bilingual Counselor Assistants) to assist school sites in implementing parental engagement.
 - The Grants Compliance/Title I Office will provide technical assistance to schools and parent organizations, such as the Title I Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), Home and School Associations, and other organized parent groups.
 - Provide coordination of professional development efforts through the Office.

- Provide workshops to parents on supporting student achievement and parent engagement.

The administration team and grade group leaders meet once a week during which time representatives from the PTA are invited to discuss student academic achievement and school performance. At these meetings, opportunities for trainings and activities that involve parents, such as Families Reading Together, which promotes the literacy and vocabulary acquisition through the American Reading Company 100 Book Challenge, and STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art and Math) nights are developed and shared.

The English Language Learners staff meets with families twice a year to discuss ways to support students during ACCESS testing as well as to review the results of the ACCESS test.

Staff receives professional development and coaching throughout the year on ways to communicate with families regarding academics, and ways to increase parental involvement with students and the school.

4. The **John B. Stetson Charter School** will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: [Insert programs, such as: Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents As Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and State-operated preschool programs], by:

Stetson collaborates with Head Start, specifically the Brightside center that is located nearest to the school. Information is provided to the parents through resources provided at monthly parent meetings as well as by word of mouth from our community outreach liaison, Mrs. Joanne Esquilin.

5. The **John B. Stetson Charter School** 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 programs. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater 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.

Mrs. Joanne Esquilin, the community outreach liaison, creates a parent survey every year that is given to each student in the school. She also creates a parent volunteer survey. Parents are responsible for completing the survey and providing any additional input on the surveys.

6. The John B. Stetson Charter School will build the school's and parents' 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. The John B. Stetson Charter School will, with the assistance of Aspira Inc of PA, provide assistance to parents, 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 alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Title I-Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators.

Parents are provided letters regarding Title I in the beginning of the school year. Resources about Title I and PowerSchool are offered to parents at Report Card conferences and at monthly parent meetings. Parents are provided with a website and password to look up their child's grades and attendance. The previous year's school wide PSSA results are shared with students via a PowerPoint presentation during the Back to School night in September. Students are also provided with a paper copy of their scores as well as an explanation of their scores during the first report card conference of the year.

B. The John B. Stetson Charter School will, with the assistance of the School District, 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:

During the monthly Breakfast with Family meetings, parents are offered informational workshop opportunities as well as trainings and parenting classes via the resource table. During these meetings, there is also a guest speaker who addresses community needs as well as provides further resources for the parents. Parents were provided with letters from the Comcast organization regarding ways to obtain free/low cost internet service.

- C. The John B. Stetson Charter School will, with the assistance of Aspira Inc of PA, 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 in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

Each year, the staff participates in a community walk through during which time they walk to students' houses to invite families to the annual Community Day event. Throughout the year, the staff participates in various professional development workshops and days at which time communication and community are discussed/implemented. The PTA serves as the bridge between the parents and staff. Currently, the PTA has a community parent center in the process of being pieced together so that all parents can come to the school to obtain information regarding resources and be provided with opportunities to volunteer at the school.

- D. The John B. Stetson Charter School will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other 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:

Stetson collaborates with Brightside, our local Head Start. We have students who utilize their after school program. In addition, we also provide parents with resources and documentation regarding educational programs for students of all ages.

- E. The John B. Stetson Charter School will take the following actions to ensure that 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:

Documents that are given out at school as well as documents that are mailed home are provided in both English and Spanish. During Back to School Night as well as at ESOL Family Nights, the ELL coordinator

provides a number to a free translation service that both families and staff members can utilize.

PART III. SCHOOL WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

NOTE: The School's Parental Involvement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under section 1118(e) of the ESEA:

- involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
- providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
- paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education;
- adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- establishing a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and
- providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.]

* * * * *

PART IV. ADOPTION

This ____ John B. Stetson Charter School Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents as evidenced by _____.

The school will distribute this policy to all parents on or before _____.

(Signature of Principal)

(Date)