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## Primary Years Academy 2019-20 Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Primary Years Academy has jointly developed with and distributed to parents of participating students the following written Parent and Family Engagement Policy. The policy has been agreed to by parents of Title I students and describes the means for carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements

### **Involvement of Parents in the Title I Program**

Primary Years Academy carries out the following legal requirements in the manner described below:

- 1) Convene an annual meeting to inform parents of participating students of the requirements of Title I and their rights to be involved.

*At our Title I meeting we discuss:*

- a. Title I program, goals, services, budget expenditures*
  - b. Parents rights under Title I*
  - c. Parent involvement at our school Title I Parent Policy and School-Parent Compact*
  - d. School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA), School Site Council (SSC) and school achievement results*
  - e. Parent and Family Engagement Policy and School-Parent Compact*
- 2) Offer a flexible number of meetings
    - a. PYA holds an annual Back to School Night*
    - b. Regularly scheduled School Site Council Meetings*
    - c. Monthly IB Parent Meetings*
    - d. Quarterly English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) Meetings*
    - e. PTA meetings and events*
    - f. Quarterly Family Nights, concerts etc.*
  - 3) Involve parents of participating students in an organized, ongoing, and timely way in the planning, review, and improvement of its Title I programs and Title I parental involvement policy.

*Parents are invited to attend School Site Council and ELAC meetings at which Title I programs are discussed. Parents are also invited to be volunteers in the classrooms, at school, at the family functions, and as extra help on the playground.*
  - 4) Provides parents of participating students with timely information about Title I programs.

*Parents receive information through the Parent Weekly Newsletter-the **Falcon Flyer**,*

*School Messenger phone calls, PYA website, Back to School Night, Student Progress Reports, English Language Appraisal Team Meetings (ELAT) and Student Study Teams (SST).*

- 5) Provides parents of participating students with an explanation of the curriculum, academic assessment, and proficiency levels students are expected to meet.  
*Parents receive an explanation of the curriculum, academic assessments and proficiency levels during Back to School Night, during student conferences and during SST's, and ELAT as well as at SSC, ELAC and IB Parent meetings. California state assessment (SBAC) and ELPAC results are mailed to parents by the District office.*
- 6) Provide parents of participating students, if requested, with opportunities for regular meetings, to participate in decisions relating to the education of their children.  
*Parents are invited to attend IB informational meetings, SST's, ELAT, School Site Council and /ELAC meetings.*
7. If the School Plan for Student Achievement is not satisfactory to parents of Title I students, parents may submit comments on the Plan.  
*Parents are invited to attend SSC meetings to share comments on the School Plan for Student Achievement.*

### **Shared Responsibilities: School-Parent Compact**

Primary Years Academy has jointly developed with and distributed to parents of participating students, 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 students reach proficiency on the California content standards. The compact describes the following items in addition to items added by parents of Title I students.

- 1) The school's responsibility to provide high quality IB curriculum and instruction
- 2) The parent's responsibility to support their children's learning.
- 3) The importance of ongoing communication between parents and teachers through at a minimum, reports on student progress, and access to staff for student conferences, and SST's. Parents are encouraged to volunteer and participate in, and observe the educational program.

### **Building Capacity for Involvement**

Primary Years Academy engages parents of participating students in meaningful interactions with the school. It supports a partnership among staff, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. To help reach these goals, the school does the following:

1. Assists parents in understanding academic content, achievement standards, and assessments. Trains parents on how to monitor and improve the achievement of students.  
*Every parent is invited to attend the Back to School night at the beginning of the school year, monthly School Site Council, quarterly ELAC Meetings, and IB meetings/coffee hours. Parents may request a conference with their child's teacher. When needed, an SST is held to discuss the academics and/or discipline of the student. The school partners with the PTA*

*to provide a Back to School Picnic and at least four Family Nights (e.g. literacy, math, science, art, music, etc.).*

2. Provides materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement.

*All parents are invited to attend Back to School night. Weekly newsletters are sent electronically. These newsletters inform parents of upcoming events. Parents will be informed of at home access to learning websites, including ST Math, Compass Learning-Odyssey, Imagine Learning, Rosetta Stone and Sum Dog, Starfall, Khan Academy, etc.*

3. Educates staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value of parent contributions and how to work with parents as equal partners.

*During SSC, ELAC and parent meetings parents provide the principal with lists of ways parents can contribute and be an equal partner with staff in the education of their students.*

4. Coordinates and integrates parental involvement with other programs, including the PTA, and conducts activities that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

*PYA provides activities such as Family Nights in partnership with the PTA. Monthly Parent Coffee hours are alternating morning & evening parent meetings with IB activities, classroom walkthroughs and presentations. A teacher-liaison and principal are members of the PTA board and all teachers are encouraged to join and attend the Association meeting.*

5. Distributes information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities in a form and language that the parents understand.

*Parents are invited to Back to School Night. Newsletters are sent home to parents weekly with Spanish translation of English text. A parent coffee connection is being set up for monthly IB meetings. A Parent Teacher Association is active at PYA. Messages are sent home through the Parent Link phone service. When possible, written information is translated into Spanish.*

6. Provides support for parental involvement activities requested by parents.

*A monthly IB Parent meeting/coffee hour is a venue for the dissemination of information about our IB program and student learning. An active PTA has been in operation since the school was founded and provides opportunities for parents to support the school. Weekly newsletters are sent home every Friday, and are posted on the PYA website. Some teachers use electronic communications such as emails, text and applications such as Dojo to communicate with parents. Messages and reminders are sent home via the School Messenger phone service.*

7. Parents can access the following items on the school website; http:

[www.stocktonusd.net/PYA](http://www.stocktonusd.net/PYA) : School newsletters in English and Spanish, Program of Inquiry, Parent Handbook, Staff email addresses, school website, and teacher webpages.

### **Accessibility**

Primary Years Academy, to the extent possible, provides full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory students including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents of participating students understand.

*PYA informs parents through Student Study Team Meetings (SSTs), Back to School Night, SSC, ELAC, Family Literacy Nights, and Weekly Parent Newsletters. The SST's are team meetings. The SST team consists of Parent, Administrator, Teachers, and Support Staff. When possible, the information is translated into Spanish. PYA's campus is handicapped accessible. Migrant services are available through the Language Development Office.*