



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

Fitler Academic Plus School **Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

School Year 2025-2026
Revision Date: March 26, 2025

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Fitler Academic Plus School receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore 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 local educational agency (LEA).

Fitler Academic Plus School 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 schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

- 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 the 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:

- (A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- (C) 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) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA

DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

Section A: JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Fitler Academic Plus School 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 are invited to attend the Spring Title I meeting with school administrators to discuss and review last year's Policy and Compact. This meeting provides parents and school leadership with an opportunity to jointly develop the School-Parent Compact and this Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Parents are then given the opportunity to make suggestions and provide input into this policy. This year, parents were invited to attend the Spring Title I meeting held on March 26, 2025. Fitler Academics Plus School's principal promotes communication and collaboration with families, including but not limited to the School Advisory Council.

Section B: ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Fitler Academic Plus School 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.

The Annual Title I meeting will be held in the Fall of 2025. At this time, the principal or designee will share information about the requirements of Title I, Part A, parent rights to know, the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, state and local assessments including the PSSAs, school curriculum, including the new ELA curriculum, planned family curriculum nights, how to work with educators and to track student progress. Parents will be invited by a flyer, Class Dojo, and school website to attend the meeting.

Section C: COMMUNICATIONS

Fitler Academic Plus School will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children with (1) Timely information about the Title I programs, (2) Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, (3) transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement and may use Title I funds and (4) 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.

- A monthly calendar, which illustrates all Fitler Academics Plus School's activities and meetings, is given to each student every month to take home to parents and guardians.*
- The school's web page and The School District of Philadelphia's calendar is another vehicle for communication with parents as well as teacher Class Dojo and the School Messenger System.*
- Flyers will go home to inform parents of meetings, workshops, and activities in clear, parent-friendly language. Translations are available as needed through the District's Family and Community Engagement office.*
- Communication folders will be provided through Title I funds to enable teachers and parents to communicate with regard to homework and academics requirements.*
- Parents are invited to provide feedback about the timing of the parent meetings and any other potential barriers to parental engagement on the parent survey.*
- School will utilize student's email addresses as an additional form of communication between the school and families.*
- The Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the School-Parent Compact will be posted on the Fitler website and sent home at the beginning of the school year as part of the Family Handbook.*

Section D: SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Fitler Academic Plus School 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.

The Spring Title I meeting provides an opportunity for parents and school leadership to jointly develop the School-Parent Compact and this Family and Community Engagement Policy. Parents are invited to attend this meeting with school administrators to discuss and review last year's policy. Parents are then given the opportunity to make suggestions and provide input into this policy. This year, parents were invited to attend the Spring Title I meeting held March 26, 2025 and the Fitler posted a survey for feedback from families.

Section E: RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, Fitler Academic Plus School 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:

- *Parents are invited to the Winter Title I meeting to review the school's budget. The parents can provide input on how the 1% Title I parental involvement set aside funds are budgeted in addition to providing input on the needs and spending priorities for the school.*
- *We held our Winter Title I Meeting on January 15, 2025 and discussed our current year budget and school level plan, record parental input and needs of our students and possible solutions to those needs.*

Section F: COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Fitler Academic Plus School 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:

- *The school will work in partnership with the parents to provide math and literacy workshops for parents to assist their children in academics at home.*
- *The Fitler Academics Plus School has a parent resource table located in the main office. This resource provides parents with academic information and resources available to them in the community.*
- *Parents will be connected with our Family and Community Engagement Liaison to be made aware of parent workshops being offered at the School District central office or at the school.*
- *Parents will utilize summer reading materials purchased with Parental Involvement Title I funds that are provided to students at the end of the school year.*

Section G: BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Fitler Academic Plus School 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:

- Providing 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; and
- 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
- Providing 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
 - How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child

- *The Annual Title I meeting will be held in the Fall of 2025. At this time, the principal or designee will share information about the requirements of Title I, Part A, parent rights to know, the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, state and local assessments including the PSSAs, school curriculum, including the new ELA curriculum, planned family curriculum nights, how to work with educators and to track student progress. Parents will be invited by a flyer, Class Dojo, and school website to attend the meeting.*
- *Provide workshops to parents on supporting student achievement, literacy, and parent engagement.-*
- *Work with the Family and Community Engagement Office to continue workshops on volunteer opportunities.*

Section H: BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Fitler Academic Plus School 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:

During a District designated professional development day during the Fall or Winter, the school will educate their instructional and non-instructional staff on the many strategies they can use in working with parents and guardians as equal partners and how to communicate effectively. Results from parent surveys will inform the discussion.

Fittler Academic Plus School will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:

- Staff/Parent Meetings available per Parental Request*
- Workshops/Training provided to parents based on survey and parents' needs*
- Before and After-School Clubs offered*
- Provide summer reading materials for families*
- Provide coordination of professional development efforts through the Office of Teaching and Learning.*

Principal's Signature

Kate Sylvester

Date Signed

5/13/25