



Parent and Family Engagement Plan

2019-2020

The mission of UCP Charter Schools (LEA) parent and family engagement is to enable our students to find success, both academically and personally through the support and involvement of our families and the community. UCP Charter Schools believe that parent involvement is the driving force behind student educational success and remain committed to working with families and the community to provide quality educational opportunities for our students. Together, the UCP family will build capacity and self-efficacy with parents and empower them as partners in the work of educating students by providing effective assistance at home so that students have the necessary supports in place to achieve success both during the school day and future years. Our goal is to increase the number of parents engaged at each campus and overcome the barriers we have experienced in the past. We value our families and believe that all children can learn. Parent training and family engagement activities are grounded in the needs of families and the strategic goals for UCP of Central Florida.

The LEA Consortium Family Engagement Plan (PFEP) consists of opportunities for parents and families to provide input as well as opportunities to build capacity at each school campus. UCP will work with its schools to ensure that the required parent and family engagement policy is developed under subsection (b) of ESSA, and section 1116. Each school served under Title 1, part A will create a compact that outlines how parents, the entire staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards.

Parent and Family Engagement Activities:

At individual school site, parents will have multiple opportunities to provide feedback and evaluation of the PFEP at the individual school as outlined below:

- September: An initial Orientation Parent Engagement meeting will be scheduled to evaluate the previous PFEP program and activities and provide information and documents for the School-Parent Compact and the UCP Parent and Family Engagement Plan. Opportunities for parent input will be provided.*
- January: Parents will be invited to review the effectiveness and efficacy of the PFEP and Parent-School Compact. Parent will be encouraged to provide feedback, input, and determine next steps for continuous improvement.*
- May: Parents will be invited to a second opportunity to provide input on the effectiveness of the PFEP, the Parent-School Compact, and the efficacy of the parent events scheduled throughout the year. At this meeting, the school will conduct a needs assessment to determine the next steps in the continuous improvement process to meet the needs of our families. As part of this needs assessment, parents will be asked to evaluate the activities hosted by the school for usefulness to parents and continuation or repetition for the subsequent year. Also included in the needs assessment will be suggestions for priority activities to assist parents and families. Successes for the year will be celebrated and data points used as evaluation (attendance rates, participant evaluations, informal feedback) will be shared and used as an evaluative tool in forming the PFEP and Parent-School Compact for the following year.*

- All campuses will conduct a “Meet the Teacher” event in August to facilitate the communication and relationship development between parent, teacher, and student.
- Quarterly Parent-Teacher conferences (October, December, February, April/May) will be scheduled at parent and/or teacher request, flexibly and at times convenient to the parent. This will provide parents the opportunity to continue to build a rapport with the teacher, strengthen their knowledge about classroom procedures and expectations, and receive information about the academic and social progress of the student, individual goals, and progress toward meeting already identified goals. Parents can work with the teacher and the student to identify areas of need and develop a plan for support at home with guidance from the teacher.
- Quarterly Literacy and Math Nights. These educational “trainings” for parents will provide home support and hands-on relevant strategies to support learning at home and establish a stronger partnership between the school and home. These family engagement opportunities will support parents as they work through homework concerns, understanding curriculum and the school level, and increase capacity to help children master Florida Standards. Participation in such events will build confidence and self-efficacy as parents develop a personal tool box of skills and strategies with which to assist their student(s) at home.
- Yearly Parent Survey conducted by the LEA for all parents. PFEP and activities are part of the survey questions and results are collected, reviewed, and provided to individual campuses for consideration/use in creating PFEP for the following year

Pre-K and VPK Parent Engagement Activities:

- Four (4) Pre-Kindergarten parent engagement activities at each campus during the school year. Teachers will share educational activities and parents will participate in activities designed to provide parenting tools such as hands-on learning activities, “make and take” events, and strategies for engagement and making learning fun. Parents will be encouraged to read to their children, have their children listen to older children read, and commit to at least 30 minutes of educational reading daily.

The UCP Commitment to Parent and Family Partnerships in Education:

According to Henderson and Mapp (2002), students whose parents are involved in their education, without regard to social status, family income, or background, will have higher grades, test scores, more consistent attendance, have better social skills, show consistently acceptable and appropriate behavior, and will generally adapt well to the school environment. Essentially, Henderson (1995) states, the more comprehensive and planned a program is to create a partnership with parents, the more successful the student will be at school and the higher the student achievement. Thus, UCP of Central Florida will support schools in creating deliberate activities to cultivate a strong and positive partnership between school and families.

