

Title I Policies and Information

Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Purpose

University High School, with parents and family members, has jointly developed a parent and family engagement policy that is tailored to the needs of the school and learning community. We recognize that parental involvement is a critical dimension of effective schooling. The school and the home cannot be looked at in isolation from one another; families and schools need to collaborate to help children adjust to the responsibilities of being successful students. Research has shown that parent involvement contributes greatly to student achievement and conduct.

The staff at University High School believes that we should help parents develop skills to meet the basic obligations of family life and foster conditions at home which emphasize the importance of education and learning. Two-way communication about school programs and student progress is promoted due to the belief that education is a responsibility shared with parents. Parents are also invited to actively participate in school decision-making and to develop skills to advocate effectively for a student's educational needs. By joining advisory committees and parent groups, such as Phoenix Alliance, UHS parents can be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs.

Initial Development of the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

The Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy was the byproduct of parent and site-staff input. Parents were initially engaged in the development of this policy that has been reviewed and revised through additional, on-going input. The school used an annual parent survey, held parent focus-group meetings during the initial accreditation process, and gathered input at monthly parent meetings held by the parent club (Phoenix Alliance). Through this collaborative work, the Parent and Family Engagement Policy was developed.

Review and Amendment of the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

The school will periodically update and amend the School Parent and Family Engagement Policy. In collaboration with the school, parents and family members are invited to review the Title I policy and provide input related to the needs of the student community. As the needs of the students and community change, it is critical to receive input from parents and families of students.

What does Parental Involvement Mean at UHS?

Parental involvement means open communication with parents in order to establish a high-quality school program and academic achievement, including ensuring -

- that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;

- that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in the child's education at school;
- 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;
- and the carrying out of other activities that support the education of the whole child.

Involvement of Parents in the Title I Program

To involve parents in the Title I program at University High School, the following practices have been established:

1. At the beginning of each school year, University High School convenes an annual meeting to inform parents of Title I requirements and about the right of parents and families to be involved in the Title I program. Parents are notified of the meeting, which may occur in-person or through Zoom, so that parents can readily attend, receive information and provide input.
2. University High School offers a flexible number of meetings for Title I parents, such as meetings on Zoom and in-person. Counselors hold regular meetings with students, parents, and families, to inform them of school programs supported through the use of Title I funds and how to access them. Meetings occur before school, during the school day and after school hours in order to offer multiple opportunities for parents and families to connect to school services.
3. University High School involves parents of Title I students in an organized, ongoing, and timely way. Parents are invited to attend monthly Phoenix Alliance meetings, where school administrators and parent leaders engage in planning, reviewing, and making improvements to the services and programs offered to all students. Parents can also provide feedback and input through annual parent surveys that are reviewed by the administrative team. Such feedback and input has fundamentally shaped the programs offered at University High School and continues to lead to changes that benefit and support all students.
4. If requested by parents of Title I students, UHS provides opportunities for regular meetings that allow the parents to participate in decisions relating to the education of their student. All parents are introduced to their student's academic counselor at information sessions, welcome events, Back to School Night, and through email communication and website notifications which provide them with their student's counselor contact information. Parents are encouraged to contact the counselor if they have any questions or concerns.

Communication of Title I Information, Policies, and Resources

University High School distributes a parent-student handbook to each parent during the registration process each year. Students receive a copy of the handbook included in their yearly planner. The handbook contains a notification of the policy which is officially posted on the school website. Parents of students enrolled in Title I programs also receive a qualifying letter from the school that communicates the services to which their student is entitled. This policy describes the means for carrying out the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

Freshmen parents are invited to a meeting with school administrators before the school year begins. At these meetings, parents and families are informed of the variety of services offered to all students and how to access those services. School administrators and counselors meet with all freshmen students during the first few weeks of school in order to build connections with students and provide students with information about schoolwide supports and programs that they can access.

All students that qualify for Title I Targeted Assistance Program are notified about the support the school can provide for them regarding such things as transportation, academic support through the Academic Support Center, and other services. Students, parents, and families are provided with an explanation of the curriculum used at the school, the assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet. The school holds four to five information days each year that outline the UHS curriculum and supports provided to all students. The curriculum guide for each grade level is available in the administration office and is also reviewed with each student with their counselor. All parents are provided with access to PowerSchool and the steps to access this program in order to monitor their student's progress and attendance. Counselors hold personalized conferences with both students and parents at multiple points to provide information and guidance related to college and career readiness and academic success.

Building Capacity for Involvement

University High School engages all parents in meaningful interactions that support a partnership among staff, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. To help reach these goals, UHS has established the following practices:

1. UHS provides parents with assistance in understanding the State's academic content standards, assessments and how to monitor and improve the achievement of their students (e.g. parent orientation meetings, Back to School Night, informational emails explaining school wide assessments and programs, financial aid workshops, college and career readiness advising).
2. UHS communicates with parents regularly regarding the educational environment of the school and opportunities to be involved. The administration communicates with all parents weekly with timely and relevant information of current events and trends on the campus. Within these communications, parents are encouraged to be involved in the academic progress of their student and to engage in two-way communication with teachers and staff.
3. Through feedback provided by parents, the administration will work with teachers and staff to understand the expressed needs and concerns of the community. This will educate staff members about the value of parent contributions and how to reach out, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and the school.

University High School's Title I School-Parent Compact

University High School, and the parents and families of the students participating in activities, services and programs funded by Title I, Part A, agree that the School-Parent Compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share in 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 students achieve the State's high academic standards.

University High School will provide high-quality curriculum and instruction to all students. Standards aligned curriculum and course objectives will be made available to parents and students through course syllabi so that all students are aware of the high expectations that both the school and parents have. University High School is committed to providing all students with a rigorous academic education that meets the State's standards and prepares students to be college and career ready. The school charter outlines all courses that students will take and how academic achievement will be measured. The charter shows parents the commitment UHS has to a high-quality, rigorous education. As a school, UHS will establish clear and measurable annual goals that relate directly to student achievement and provide the support necessary to help all students develop the skills they need to be successful.

Parents and families of University High School students have the responsibility to actively monitor their student's academic progress and to communicate with the school and/or academic counselor regarding any concerns. Parents will support their student's achievement by ensuring that students are present and on-time to school each day, regularly monitor their student's work and study habits, and provide a supportive learning environment at home that values the work of the school. Parents are encouraged to become involved in school activities through volunteering and joining parent groups, particularly the Phoenix Alliance, that support the school. The Phoenix Alliance promotes and communicates volunteering activities and provides leadership opportunities for parents that want to participate.

University High School will communicate regularly with parents and students regarding academic progress through parent-teacher conferences, conferences with the academic counselors, regular progress reports, and notification to parents of any academic concerns (D or F letter grades and attendance). Teachers and staff will be available to parents during school hours for additional meetings and conferences to discuss ways in which the student can be supported in meeting their academic goals. Parents and teachers will also communicate through email in order to provide feedback or ask questions that will support student learning. Parents, with prior approval, may observe and volunteer in classroom activities to be more involved in the educational processes of the school.

University High School is focused on student achievement and recognizes that through a partnership with parents, the school can support all students more effectively. This compact is the agreement between University High School and the parents to work collaboratively and share in the responsibility for improving student academic achievement.

Signature Page

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