

We, the Foster Elementary Charter School community, recognize that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and the family. In order to achieve our school goal of producing students who are lifelong learners, avid readers, and good community citizens, we know that the school staff and parents must work together as partners.

In order to promote parents' and families' involvement in their children's education at Foster School, we have adopted the following:

### **Foster Elementary Charter School Parental Involvement Policy**

- 1.) We have regular, two-way, meaningful communications between home and school. Classroom teachers, and the school as a whole, send home weekly/monthly newsletters; parents and teachers communicate in writing through the student's homework agenda book; staff e-mail addresses are published on the school website; teachers and parents write comments on report cards twice a year, and teachers and parents meet at least twice a year to discuss each child's progress. Through these interactions, parents are informed about the curriculum at each grade level, assessments used to inform and evaluate instruction, and the proficiency levels each student is expected to reach.

The school provides one full time interpreter and one half time interpreter for Hmong speakers. These interpreters are available to parents during the school day and at any parent/teacher meeting or all school events. Important written communication, like the School Compact or report cards are translated into these languages.

Parents and teachers are able to meet together less formally in before school meetings and at Meet and Greet. Incoming Kindergarteners and their families will attend a preview to kindergarten event. All families will be welcome to attend a Meet and Greet event.

- 2.) We promote and support responsible parenting. Our School Compact outlines student, teacher, and parent responsibilities and students, teachers, and parents/guardians read, sign, and follow it. We offer a series of parent education nights two or three times each school year. The Foster lobby houses a Parent Resource Library with a simple check-out system. Here parents can find helpful information on a wide variety of topics.
- 3.) We recognize that parents play an integral role in assisting student learning. Our School Compact lists the ways that parents/families can assist their students. We host two or three parent education nights with an entertaining format including education for parents about how to support their child's learning.
- 4.) Parents are welcome in our school. We seek out parents to volunteer in classrooms or our library, attend class or school performances, accompany classes on field trips and assist with special projects. Parents can easily be a part of the Foster Family Network, our parent/teacher organization. This group supports school through its fundraising and volunteer efforts, which provide materials and opportunities to enhance students' learning at school.

- 5.) Teachers have professional development opportunities to focus on understanding our parents and families, both through informal study groups and through the staff development training provided through the Continuous School Improvement Process (CSIP).
- 6.) Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families. Parents sit as equal partners on our Charter Governance Board, which oversees the entire educational program of our charter school. This includes, but is not limited to: staffing, budget, instructional approaches, community partnerships, development of school committees, school communication efforts and the Foster CSIP Plan.
- 7.) Community resources are made available to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning. We offer a quality before – and after-school program through an on-site Boys and Girls Club Community Learning Center. We connect our families to programs at our public library, our Children’s Museum, local nature centers, and promote community service opportunities through visits to nearby retirement homes and through active participation in fundraising and service work. We connect our families to low cost or free health care, counseling and/or vision care. Employees of our School Business Partner, SECURA Insurance, provide tutoring in reading and math, provide for special field trips in our community, and underwrite special projects which benefit students. St. Elizabeth’s Hospital staff also provides tutoring in reading and math for some students.
- 8.) A Title I Community Meeting involving parents, teachers and other community members is held annually in May at Stephen Foster Elementary Charter School. Items for discussion at each meeting include, but are not limited to: a review of the Parent/Student/Teacher Compact, a review of the School Parent Involvement Policy, an update regarding school performance, and the development of prioritized list regarding the use of site level Title I funds.
- 9.) Stephen Foster Elementary Charter School may use site level Title I funds to pay reasonable expenses associated with parent involvement activities, including transportation, or childcare to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions. The use of site level Title I funds will be discussed at the annual Title I Community Meeting.
- 10.) The School Parent Involvement Policy can be modified at any time throughout the school year by any group consisting of parents, staff and other community members. Modifications to the School Parent Involvement Policy are reviewed annually during the Title I Community Meeting for approval by those in attendance.

This Foster Elementary Charter School Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed upon with, parents of children participating in Title I programs.

This policy was adopted by Foster Elementary Charter School on May 28, 2013 and updated in May 2016. This policy will be posted on the school website.