



Friendship Aspire Academy Public Charter School ARKANSAS

District Communication, and Family Community Engagement Plan

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District Level Reviewer, Title Deputy Superintendent

Part 1: Jointly Developed Expectations and Objectives

Friendship Aspire Academy School District (hereto referred to as the FAA) is committed to fostering and promoting parental engagement with our schools. To achieve this goal, our schools will involve parents in the development of the policy and the process of school review and improvement through the following types of involvement activities:

- Parental involvement group meetings
- Establishment and/or continuation of Parent Advisory Council
- (PAC)
- Mystery Reader (within classrooms)
- Coffee with the Principal/ Principal Parties (student celebrations)
- Establishing a parent/stakeholder volunteer protocol
- Conducting parent surveys at the beginning and end of each school year ●
- Parent/Scholar Academic Conferences during each quarter
- Neighborhood walks
- Home visits
- School Improvement Meetings
- Parent University

Part 1: Jointly Develop Expectations and Objectives

Strategies for reaching the goal:

- FAA will recruit at least two parents from the Parent Action Committee to help in the development of the district parent and family engagement plan, school-wide program plan, and support and improvement plan. FAA will also hold a parent meeting to solicit input to ensure a parent and family engagement plan equitable for all. FAA's parental engagement committee will disseminate the information to the community to promote parental engagement.
- The dissemination of information will be through meetings at each school, parent/teacher conferences, parent centers, and the annual report to the public.
- FAA will ensure that parents of children with disabilities or limited English proficiency have the same access as other parents including information translated into native language.
- FAA will solicit parental involvement in the Friendship Aspire "Before" and After School" Extended Learning Program.
- FAA will use social media avenues such as Facebook as a strategy to encourage and promote parent involvement within each building.
- FAA will ask school principals to solicit information about interests, frequency of availability, options of volunteering from home and to engage in other activities to welcome families, parents and community as volunteers.
- Each FAA principal will select one willing parent as the Family and Community Engagement Facilitator for the district.
- Each principal will ensure that the district is aware of building-level activities. This will ensure that the school web site is updated and maintained.
- Principals will develop strategic approaches to incorporate parents in the Recruitment & Enrollment Process, each day.
- FAA will establish expectations and objectives for meaningful involvement, reflecting the specific needs of students and families.
- FAA will place the parent and family engagement plan on the website and as a supplement to the student handbook.
- FAA will involve parents and families regarding how parent and family engagement funds are used.
- An annual meeting will be held to update the policy for next year's program. The meeting will be held on a forthcoming date. Principals of each school will lead this annual meeting. Parents/Patrons that are interested in serving on the committee may contact the applicable principal for their campus.
- Parental involvement contact person at each school will be the principal.

- FAA will incorporate the parent and family engagement plan into the school-wide plan.
- FAA will submit to the state the comments from parents who deem the school-wide plan unsatisfactory.
- FAA will send home to all parents the Parent & Family Engagement plan and will have on file parent's signature acknowledging that they have received the Parent & Family Engagement Plan.
- FAA will ensure that the Parent & Family Engagement Plan will be filed and uploaded to Indistar by August 1st of every school year

Part 2: Building Staff Capacity through Training and Technical Assistance

Strategies for reaching the goal:

- FAA will conduct a 2-week Friendship Institute for the Advancement of Teachers (F.I.A.T) professional development Bootcamp for all staff in July before the commencement of school each year. The dates for this school year are July 16-30, 2021. The Bootcamp will provide professional development to staff, teachers, and administrators on:
 - Parent contributions and its value
 - How to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners ●
 - How to implement and coordinate parent programs
 - How to build ties between parents and FAA
 - In addition to the Bootcamp, FAA will conduct ongoing professional development for all staff and teachers ongoing throughout the school year. ● FAA will have on record teacher sign-in sheets for every PD and will have an aggregate of PD hours completed for each teacher, staff and administrator. ● FAA will provide appropriate PDs for all volunteers to ensure they are quipped to help our students, teachers, and school.
 - FAA will provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support to schools in developing the school's parent and family engagement plans, implementing effective parent and family involvement activities, and developing school-parent compacts.
 - FAA will ensure to the extent possible that information sent home is in the parent's native language.
 - Monitor FAA's parent and family engagement plan to ensure the following tasks are performed:
 - Development and update of Parent and family engagement plan
 - Offer flexible meeting time in the development of the parent and family engagement plan ●
 - Provide information to parents about the district's program in a parent friendly summary of the (district) Parent and Family Engagement Plan as a supplement to the Student Handbook and obtain signatures to have on file to ensure receipt of this plan
 - Provide information sessions for parents in working with their child to improve academic achievement (reading and math).
 - FAA will collaborate with local universities, agencies, faith-based organizations, etc to assist with the effective implementation of a Parent and Family Engagement

Program.

Part 3: Building Parent Capacity

Strategies for reaching the goal:

- FAA will provide and assist participating parents with information in such areas as:
 - National, state, and local education goals and academic standards
 - State and local academic assessments
 - Parents' rights as defined in Title I, Part A.
 - How to monitor their child's progress and work with their teachers to improve the achievement of their children
- FAA will foster parental involvement by providing materials and training to help parents work their children to improve their children's achievement in literacy and technology use.
- Campus Principals will conduct an annual survey with parents to gather information on how to improve school effectiveness.
- Principals will ensure that building level activities and programs are sent out to parents through multiple avenues including letters, email, Classroom DOJO, etc. ● FAA will implement a Parent University Program. Parent University educates, engages and empowers our parents and families. Through meaningful classes and workshops, this program expands the resources parents have to support their student's academic growth and well-being.

Parent University Goals:

- Increase access to and understanding of Friendship's core values, policies and practices ● Increase parental involvement in every school
- Provide opportunities to network with professionals and other parents

- Help parents develop and strengthen positive parenting practices
- Empower parents to become effective advocates for their children
- Strengthen home-to-school partnerships
- Provide opportunities and support for families to achieve academic and non-academic goals

Parent University Workshops:

- Academic Intervention and Support: Parents acquire the tools to assess their student's academic progress and deploy interventions as needed.
- Education: Facilitators cover a range of topics beneficial to Friendship families such as financial literacy and college planning.
- Growth and Personal Development: Parents increase their own personal and professional growth, enabling them to effectively advocate for their children and themselves.
- Social Emotional Learning: Information focuses on students' social and emotional

development and how these factors impact academic achievement.

- Technology: Parents learn more about how technology increases learning for students and parents.

Part 4: Reservation and Evaluation

Strategies for reaching the goal:

- Campus Principals will survey parents annually, including questions to identify barriers, needs and strategies to parent and family engagement.
- FAA will provide an opportunity for our parents to assist in the development of the evaluation procedures, including analysis of data collected.
- FAA will use findings from the evaluation process to:
 - Revise the parent and family engagement policy to the extent possible
 - Design school improvement policies, as they relate to parent and family engagement.
 - FAA will develop and disseminate an annual parent activity evaluation report to share with parents, staff and the community.
- Each building principal will conduct an annual Parent Forum in efforts to gain insight into parents' desires for the forthcoming school year.
 - FAA will use these findings from the survey to the Parent Forum to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement.
- FAA will involve parents and families regarding how parent and family engagement funds are used.
- FAA will review and approve the plan for each school.
- FAA will review and update the district plan annually by August 1st.

Part 5: Coordination

Strategies for reaching the goal:

- FAA will coordinate and integrate programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs.
- FAA will conduct other activities, such as:
 - FAA has hired a full time social worker to serve the families in our network and connect them needed resources
 - Parental involvement group meetings
 - Mystery Reader (within classrooms)
 - Coffee with the principal
 - Establishing a parent/stakeholder volunteer protocol
 - Conducting parent surveys at the beginning and end of each school year
 - Parent/Scholar Academic Conferences during each quarter
 - Neighborhood walks
 - Home visits, text messages and phone calls
 - School Improvement Meetings

- Each principal will devote their final Coffee with the Principal Meeting of the school year for parents to collaborate with the Superintendent on the school's annual Title 1 Application.

Purpose

Friendship Aspire Academy's communication plan ensures that all stakeholders—students, parents, teachers, staff, and the broader community—are well-informed, engaged, and aligned with the school's mission, policies, and initiatives.

Communication Objectives

1. **Inform** stakeholders about school events, policies, academic performance, and key initiatives.
 2. **Engage** stakeholders through consistent communication, fostering collaboration and trust.
 3. **Solicit Feedback** to enhance school operations and improve student experiences.
 4. **Ensure Accessibility** of information across multiple platforms for all members of the school community.
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Communication Channels

- **Regular Updates:**
 - **Daily:** Digital and physical newsletters, Class Dojo, Remind App, and social media.
 - **Weekly:** Teacher communication via Google Classroom and email updates.
 - **Monthly:** School-wide newsletters, parent-teacher updates, and community meetings.
 - **Quarterly:** Town hall meetings, student performance reports, and district-wide updates.
 - **Meetings & Direct Engagement:**
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
 - Staff and Leadership Meetings
 - Student Assemblies and Town Hall Meetings
 - Family and Community Engagement Sessions
 - Principal “Coffee Chats” and Celebrations
 - **Online Platforms & Tools:**
 - School website
 - Social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
 - Classroom communication apps (Remind, Class Dojo, Google Classroom)
 - Email updates and text notifications
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Feedback Mechanisms

To foster two-way communication, Friendship Aspire Academy will implement the following feedback channels:

- **Surveys:** Distributed at the beginning and end of each school year to assess parent and student engagement.
 - **Suggestion Boxes:** Available at each campus for ongoing stakeholder input.
 - **Scheduled Feedback Sessions:** Regular meetings where parents and community members can provide direct input.
 - **Direct Communication:** Parents can contact teachers and administrators via email, scheduled meetings, or school communication apps.
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Ongoing Communication with Leadership, Staff, and Targeted Groups

School Leadership & Teacher Communication

- **Teacher Leadership Committee (TLC) Meetings:** Weekly one-hour sessions between teachers, administrators, and instructional coaches.
- **Staff Meetings:** Monthly faculty meetings covering school operations, curriculum, and instructional strategies.
- **Data Meetings:**
 - Conducted **weekly** to analyze student progress and instructional strategies.
 - **Twice per quarter** for in-depth student data reviews.
 - **Semi-annual** district-wide data meetings in alignment with formative and summative assessments.

Stakeholder Engagement Meetings

- **Family and Community Engagement Meetings:** Monthly gatherings tailored to each school's needs (1-2 hours).
- **District Office Meetings:** Monthly at various campuses.

Total Meetings with School Stakeholders Annually

- **Teacher & Staff Meetings:** Weekly TLC and Data Meetings (48+ per year).
 - **Family & Community Engagement:** Monthly (12 per year).
 - **District-Wide Meetings:** Monthly (12 per year).
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Student Data Meetings

- **Minimum of six** data meetings per school per year, ensuring data-driven instruction and academic progress tracking.
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Parent & Family Engagement Opportunities

The **Friendship Aspire Academy School District (FAA)** is dedicated to **active parental involvement** through:

- **Parent Advisory Council (PAC)**
- **Mystery Reader Program** (Classroom Reading)
- **Coffee with the Principal / Principal Parties** (Student Celebrations)
- **Parent/Scholar Academic Conferences (Quarterly)**
- **Volunteer & Stakeholder Engagement Protocols**
- **Neighborhood Walks & Home Visits**
- **School Improvement & Parent University Workshops**

Total Parent & Family Engagement Sessions Annually

- **Eight family engagement sessions** per school year.
- **Summer Parent Event** held annually in July.

Estimated Parents & Families Served Annually

- **1300-1,600 parents & family members served** per month.
 - **Total: 8,000-10,000 parents & family members served** per year.
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Community Communication Plan

Friendship Aspire Academy maintains an **ongoing, consistent** communication plan with the community, ensuring **at least quarterly updates** through:

- **Community Newsletters** (Quarterly)
- **District Social Media Updates** (Weekly)
- **Town Hall Meetings** (Quarterly)
- **School Website Announcements** (Ongoing)
- **Local News & Community Partnerships** (As needed)

This structured approach ensures a well-informed, engaged, and supportive school community, reinforcing Friendship Aspire Academy's commitment to excellence in education.