

Title I/Parent and Family Engagement Policy

What is a Title I School?

The U.S. Department of Education provides federal Title I funds through the Utah State Board of Education, to local educational agencies (LEAs), and public schools with high percentages of economic need to help ensure that all students meet and exceed state academic content and student academic achievement standards.

UTVA is a Title I Local Education Agency (LEA) that operates under a "schoolwide program" approach. In this approach, Title I funds are utilized to enhance educational programs for all students in the school. Both students and teachers benefit from federal funding, which is aimed at promoting academic achievement. UTVA engages in the annual planning of activities and procedures that involve learning coaches as school partners. Parental input is sought during this planning process, ensuring their involvement in decision-making and annual program planning.

School Parent and Family Engagement Policy

All schools receiving Title I funds are required under Section 1116 of the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) to develop a written Parent and Family Engagement Policy. This policy describes how the LEA will carry out meaningful parent and family engagement.

UTVA Parent and Family Engagement Policy is Jointly Developed with the School Community Council

- All parents/Learning Coaches are invited to participate in the School Community Council (SCC). [Join HERE](#)
- SCC meets every third Wednesday at 4:30 pm via Zoom.
- School Parent and Family Engagement Policies are reviewed in November/December with SCC members.

Parent/Family Input and Communication

UTVA offers parents and students, including families of English Language Learners, the chance to engage in regular meetings using their preferred method of communication. These meetings are designed to foster collaboration, generate suggestions, and involve parents in the decision-making processes related to their children's education.

- School Community Council: This meeting takes place every third Wednesday at 4:30 pm in Zoom.

Title I/Parent and Family Engagement Policy

- Family Feedback Forum: This Zoom meeting, held in September, offers families a chance to share their feedback and insights.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences: These are held twice a year, or as needed, to support open communication between parents and teachers.
- IEP, ELL, 504, and CCR meetings: These meetings are scheduled as required to address Individualized Education Programs (IEP), English Language Learner (ELL) needs, Section 504 accommodations, and College Career Readiness (CCR).
- Enduring Connection Contacts: These contacts are made with students and their Learning Coach via email, text, Zoom, or in-person meetings. They serve to provide ongoing support.

Family Feedback Forum/ Annual Title 1 Meeting

- Virtual meeting: This meeting is held annually in September in Zoom.
- All Utah Virtual Academy parents are invited to attend.
- The purpose of the meeting is to inform parents and families about Title I requirements and the school's participation in the program. It will also outline parents' rights to be actively involved.
- School Improvement Plans: During the meeting, principals will present the School Improvement Plan, followed by a dedicated Q&A session.
- Feedback and questions: Parents will have the opportunity to provide input and ask questions during the meeting. Additionally, there will be an Attendance survey to gather further input.
- Meeting recording and handouts: The recording of the meeting will be emailed to participants in a timely manner. Relevant handouts will also be provided.

Communication- Utah Virtual Academy will notify parents and families of the engagement policy and Title 1 programs in an understandable format, and to the extent practicable, in a language, the parents can understand.

- The information was sent via email to all Learning Coaches associated with UTVA.
- The information was made available on the official school website, utahvirtualacademy.org.
- The information was discussed and reviewed during the SCC meeting held in November.
- All communication is provided in a format and language that parents can understand. This is achieved through the use of certified language interpreter services, ensuring effective communication.

School-Parent/Family Compact [LINK](#)

- The information was sent via email to all Learning Coaches associated with UTVA.

Title I/Parent and Family Engagement Policy

- The information is available on the official school website, <https://utahvirtualacademy.org/>
- All communication is available in English and Spanish

Capacity Building

- UTVA will build parent and family capacity for strong parental and familial engagement: Learning Coach University provides parent training to improve student academic success.
 - Using the Online School
 - Student behavior strategies
 - Learning space tips
 - Understanding school expectations
 - Understanding assessments
- MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support) system: This system is implemented to provide targeted behavior and academic interventions that aim to improve student outcomes.
- Enduring Connection contacts: These contacts involve partnering with the Learning Coach/parent in the student's education plan, ensuring ongoing support and collaboration.
- ELL family support and training: The ELL Coordinators offer support and training to families of English Language Learners, assisting them in navigating the educational process.
- Parent Curriculum Night: This event is organized to enhance parent understanding of the curriculum. It provides an opportunity for parents to gain insights into their child's academic program.
- Parent-Teacher Conference: These conferences are held twice a year or as needed, facilitating communication and discussion between parents and teachers regarding the student's progress and academic needs.
- Strong Start Program: The Strong Start program focuses on providing training and support specifically to newly enrolled families and students, helping them transition smoothly into UTVA.
- McKinney-Vento (Homeless) Act: UTVA actively participates in the education of homeless students by providing targeted support and necessary supplies to assist them in their educational journey.

UTVA educates staff members about the value of parent contributions, how to work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents/families and the school.

- Educate staff on providing information: Staff members are trained to effectively communicate and provide parents with comprehensive information about the school's overall program, ensuring that parents have a clear understanding of the educational offerings.

Title I/Parent and Family Engagement Policy

- Educate staff on parent involvement: Staff members receive training on creating and facilitating avenues for positive and meaningful parent involvement. This empowers staff to actively engage parents in the educational process.
- Peer-to-peer professional development: Weekly professional development opportunities are provided to staff, fostering peer-to-peer learning and growth among colleagues.
- Trauma-informed professional development: Staff members receive training on trauma-informed practices to understand how trauma impacts student outcomes and behavior. This training equips staff with strategies to support students who have experienced trauma.
- Research-based attendance training: Staff members undergo training focused on research-based strategies for improving school attendance. This training equips staff with interventions and techniques to encourage live class attendance, ultimately leading to improved student outcomes.

Revision Dates

12/15/21, 10/3/22, 10/13/22, 1/12/23, 6/26/23, 1/6/25