



Battle Rock Charter School

Family Engagement Policy

This policy outlines Battle Rock Charter School's commitment to fostering strong partnerships between families and the school community. We believe that family engagement is crucial for student success, and we are dedicated to creating a welcoming and supportive environment where families feel valued and empowered. As a school that values restorative practices, we aim to build strong relationships and collaborative solutions with our families.

1. Our Vision for Family Engagement

At Battle Rock Charter School, family engagement is an active, ongoing, and collaborative process where families and school staff work together to support and improve the learning, development, and well-being of our students. We recognize that families are a child's first and most important educators, and their involvement significantly contributes to a positive school culture and academic achievement.

2. Core Principles

The following principles guide our Family Engagement Policy:

- **Partnership:** We view families as essential partners in their child's education, respecting their unique strengths, perspectives, and cultural backgrounds.
- **Communication:** We commit to open, honest, and regular two-way communication between the school and families.
- **Collaboration:** We encourage families and staff to work together to address challenges, celebrate successes, and make decisions that benefit our students.
- **Restorative Practice:** We apply restorative principles to our family engagement, focusing on building and repairing relationships, fostering empathy, and collaboratively resolving conflicts when they arise.
- **Equity and Access:** We strive to ensure all families have equitable opportunities to participate, regardless of language, background, or ability.

3. Avenues for Family Engagement

Battle Rock Charter School offers multiple avenues for families to engage with the school community:

3.1. School Events and Activities

We host a variety of school-wide events designed to bring families together and strengthen community bonds. These may include:

- Family Academic Nights: Engaging activities that demonstrate learning strategies and provide resources for home support.
- School Performances and Celebrations: Events showcasing student talents and celebrating achievements.
- Community Gatherings: Potlucks, carnivals, or other social events designed to foster connection.

3.2. Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)

Families are strongly encouraged to join and actively participate in the school's Parent-Teacher Organization. The PTO plays a vital role in:

- Fundraising: Supporting school programs and resources.
- Event Planning: Organizing community-building activities and student enrichment events.
- Volunteer Coordination: Mobilizing parent volunteers for various school needs.
- Advocacy: Providing a collective voice for parent perspectives.

3.3. School Accountability Committee (SAC)

The School Accountability Committee (SAC) is a crucial body for shared decision-making. Families are invited and encouraged to serve on the SAC, which advises the principal on:

- Spending Priorities: Providing input on the school's budget.
- School Improvement Plans: Contributing to the development and implementation of plans to enhance academic performance.
- Accountability Measures: Reviewing school performance data.

Participation in the SAC offers a direct voice in the school's direction and success. **Parents are encouraged to attend the monthly School Accountability Committee meetings (SAC) to provide input regarding curriculum, academic achievement, and programming.**

3.4. Classroom Volunteering

We welcome and encourage families to volunteer in classrooms. This direct involvement allows families to:

- Support Learning: Assist teachers with activities, provide individualized student support, and help with classroom organization.
- Observe Instruction: Gain insights into their child's learning environment and classroom routines.
- Build Relationships: Connect with teachers and other students.

All classroom volunteers will undergo a background check in accordance with school and district policies.

3.5. Field Trip Volunteering

Families are encouraged to volunteer as chaperones for field trips. Parent volunteers are essential for ensuring student safety and enhancing the educational experience outside the classroom.

- Field Trip Policy: Please refer to Battle Rock Charter School's separate "Field Trip Volunteer Policy" for specific requirements, procedures, and expectations for parent chaperones, including background check requirements.

3.6. Communication and Feedback

We commit to robust two-way communication through various channels:

- Regular Newsletters/Announcements: Providing updates on school events, academic progress, and important information.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences: Scheduled opportunities for individualized discussions about student progress.
- Digital Communication: Utilizing platforms like email, the school website, or the Remind app.
- Restorative Conversations: Engaging in open, structured discussions when challenges arise, focusing on understanding, empathy, and collaborative problem-solving.
- Feedback Mechanisms: Providing opportunities for families to offer feedback through surveys, suggestion boxes, or direct communication with staff.

4. Supporting Family Engagement

Battle Rock Charter School is committed to supporting family engagement by:

- Providing Resources: Offering workshops, information sessions, or materials to help families support their child's learning at home.
- Removing Barriers: Endeavoring to address obstacles to participation, such as providing information in multiple languages, flexible meeting times, or assistance with childcare when feasible.
- Training Staff: Equipping staff with skills to effectively engage with families from diverse backgrounds and to implement restorative practices consistently.

5. Parent Involvement in School Planning and Programs

Battle Rock Charter School actively involves parents in the planning, review, and improvement of key school policies and programs:

5.1. Policy and Program Review

Parents will be involved in the **planning, review, and improvement of this Family Engagement Policy, the Title I program, and the Unified Improvement Plan (UIP)**. This involvement will primarily occur through the **School Accountability Committee (SAC)** meetings, dedicated

feedback sessions, and parent surveys. We value parent perspectives in shaping school-wide initiatives and ensuring they meet the needs of our students and families.

5.2. Annual Title I Meeting

Battle Rock Charter School will hold an **annual meeting** to inform parents of the school's participation in **Title I**, the requirements of the program, and their rights to be involved in their child's education and the school's Title I activities. This meeting will provide a comprehensive overview of how Title I funds are used to support student achievement.

5.3. Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled throughout the day and evening to accommodate various working schedules. These conferences are a vital opportunity for personalized discussions about student progress. If a parent is unable to attend the scheduled time, they are encouraged to **reach out directly to their child's teacher to schedule an alternative conference time** that meets their needs.

5.4. Communicating Academic Progress

The school will communicate regarding your child's academic progress through a variety of methods, including:

- **Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Scheduled individualized meetings to discuss strengths, areas for growth, and support strategies.
- **Narrative Report Cards:** Comprehensive reports providing detailed insights into student learning and development.
- **Developmental Continuum:** Tools that illustrate student progress along a learning progression.
- **Additional Meetings:** Parents can request additional meetings with teachers or school staff at any time to discuss their child's progress or any concerns.

5.5. Website Information

The Battle Rock Charter School website will include comprehensive information regarding:

- The **Title I program**.
- The **curriculum** used
- Our school's **academic standards**
- School-wide **assessment data**
- Student **proficiency data**

This information aims to keep families well-informed about our educational programs and student performance.

5.6. Supporting Progress at Home

Parents will receive recommendations regarding ways to support their child's progress through:

- **School and classroom newsletters:** Providing tips, resources, and insights into current learning.
- **Report cards:** Offering specific feedback and suggestions for home support.
- **Parent-teacher conferences:** Personalized guidance on how to reinforce learning at home.

6. Ongoing Communication and Support

Parents are always encouraged to **contact their child's classroom teacher with any specific requests for information or support throughout the year.** Additionally, we welcome parents to **contact anyone on the leadership team with specific suggestions regarding programming** or any broader school-related matters. Your input is invaluable to us.

Contact Information

For more information about family engagement opportunities at Battle Rock Charter School, please contact:

Battle Rock Charter School Leadership Team

970-565-3237

leadership@battlerockschool.org

www.battlerockschool.org

This policy serves as a living document, and we encourage ongoing dialogue to continually enhance our partnership with families.