Russell Byers Charter School
Parent and Family Engagement Policy

School Year 2026- 2027

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **RBCS** receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by section 1116(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

The **Russell Byers Charter School** agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school, distribute it to the parents of participating children, and make the parent and family engagement policy available to the local community.
- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.
- Be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

  Parent and Family Engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

  (A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
  (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
  (C) 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
  (D) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ES

DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

Section A: JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Russell Byers Charter School will take the following actions to involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by parents, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

In the spring and fall, a parent meeting will be held allowing parents to give input into this document as well as the Compact. Parents have the opportunity to participate in decisions related to Title 1 programs and make and share suggestions related to improving education for their child(ren) and all children through the following:

- **Home and School Meetings**
- **Parent Meetings - monthly held virtually**

Section B: ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Russell Byers Charter School will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents' requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

We will hold our two annual Title I meetings in September 2026 and April 2027. Parents/Care-givers/Guardians will be invited to participate via ParentSquare. During these meetings parents will be informed about the Title I program and our schoolwide plan. In addition, we will solicit input to how to improve our parent-family engagement. We will post the parent-family engagement policy on our website and email it out via ParentSquare.

Section C: COMMUNICATIONS

Russell Byers Charter School will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children with (1) Timely information about the Title I programs, (2) Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, (3) transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement and may use Title I funds and (4) Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

1) **Parents will be notified of meetings through Parent Square Messaging, website calendar and paper flyers.**
2) **Parent Meetings will be held virtually or in-person.**

3) **The Parent Family Compact and Engagement policy will be posted on our school website. Translations are available upon request.**

Section D: SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Russell Byers Charter School will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

In the spring and fall of 2026, a parent meeting will be held that will provide parents the opportunity to review and give input into this document, as well as the Compact. Parents will be notified of this meeting through Parent Square Messaging.

Section E: RESERVATION OF FUNDS

Russell Byers Charter School will take the following actions to involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent by:

At the parent meeting in April 2026, the school PFE budget will be shared for the upcoming school year. Families will have the opportunity to provide input and make suggestions on how the money is used to support students. At this time, parents can give input into how they would like to see the parent involvement funds to be spent. Tentatively Parent Involvement will be spent on the following:

Current Budget - $7,900

PFE Events for School Year 2026 - 2027	
August	Meet the Teacher Day
September	Back to School Night/Fall Title I Meeting High School Selection Meetings Parent Workshop
October	Conferences Parent Workshop

November	Movie Night (Akeeha and the Bee) Parent Workshop
December	Conferences Parent Workshop
January	Ours for Life Scholarship Workshop (MS) Parent Workshop
February	Spelling Bee (3-8) Parent Workshop
March	Student-led Conferences Parent Workshop
April	Annual Spring Title I Meeting
May	
June	8th Grade Commencement Move-up Days (5K and 5th)

Section F: COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Russell Byers Charter School will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

Offering parent workshops and engagement sessions on a monthly basis. These interactions will offer a variety of topics for parents and families.
***See above chart.**

Section G: BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Russell Byers Charter School will build the parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

1. Providing parents with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and
2. Materials and training to help parents to work with their child to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy and math using technology.
3. Providing parents support in understanding topics such as the following:
    a) The Common Core Academic Standards
    b) The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
    c) The requirements of Title I, Part A
    d) How to monitor their child's progress
    e) How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child

Various virtual workshops and training will be offered to parents throughout the school year. During the Annual Title I meeting, held each April and September, we share with parents the requirements of Title I, Part A, the State's academic standards and local academic assessments. There are three report card conferences throughout the school year, December, February, and April. This year these conferences will be held in person. During conferences teachers will discuss with parents how to monitor their child's progress.

Section H: BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Russell Byers Charter School will provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school by:

Sign-in sheets are made available to parents during all events, parent meetings and conferences. The results of the parent surveys are tallied and shared with staff during Professional developments throughout the school year. Surveys are given to parents periodically throughout the school year to gauge interest on a variety of topics. This year we will use Panorama to assist with collecting survey data.

Russell Byers Charter School will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:

- Parent conferencing virtually as needed
- Virtual Parent meetings

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY DISCRETIONARY COMPONENTS

Train parents to enhance the engagement of other parents. This will be through our Home and School parents. A HSA meeting was held in August to help in developing strategies to engage more families.

Parent Responses from PFE Survey on 9/24/2026

Parents expressed interest in more opportunities to build relationships and strengthen the school community, including parent/student mixers, family events, and activities that allow families to connect with one another.

Parents would like the school to provide more academic and educational support for families, such as literacy, math, and STEM nights; workshops on reading, math, homework, study skills, organization, attendance, and academic progress; and resources to help parents support learning at home.

Several parents suggested providing take-home educational resources, including books, learning kits, math and STEM materials, educational games, and reading resources. Parents also recommended family reading challenges and opportunities for every student to receive books to take home regularly.

Parents also expressed interest in more extracurricular and enrichment opportunities for younger students, such as sports, clubs, school dances, paint nights, bingo nights, and other age-appropriate activities.

Parents would like additional support with school transitions and academic planning, including assistance with transitioning to the next grade and preparing for middle and high school.

Some parents suggested recognizing students for positive achievements, such as perfect attendance.

Parents also offered ideas for special community-building events, including a “Kings Who Read” event in January where male family members and friends could visit classrooms and read to students.

Finally, some parents indicated that they would support using the funds for whatever needs the school identifies as most important, while others suggested keeping certain activities, such as spelling bees, within the classroom rather than expanding them schoolwide.