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## Scholarship ♦ Character ♦ Craftsmanship ♦ Purpose

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### Chester Charter School for the Arts Title I Parent Involvement Policy

The Chester Charter School for the Arts (CCSA) adopts this Parent Involvement Policy in order to implement the following statutory requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) which requires each Title I school to develop a written parental involvement policy that describes the means for carrying out the requirements of Section 1118 per ESEA (Section 9101 (32)).

#### **General Information**

- A. The United States Department of Education defines parental involvement (USDOE) "as the participation of parents in regular, two way, and meaningful communication involving student academics learning and other school activities"<sup>1</sup> These activities should be implemented in a way that allows parents to assist in their child's learning, be actively involved in their child's school, act as full partners in the decision-making processes of the school and the like.
- B. The USDOE defines a "parent" as a natural parent, a legal guardian or other person standing in loco parentis (such as a grandparent, stepparents, or a person who is legally responsible for the child's welfare. <sup>2</sup>
- C. The Chester Charter School for the Arts has developed and implemented programs and activities that are meaningful and allow for educational and community growth with the goal of creating a stable home, school, and community foundation for the scholars served by our school.

#### **Opportunities for Involvement**

##### **A. Annual Meeting**

Parents will be invited annually during the month of September to discuss our school-wide goals and plan for the year, expectations and opportunities for our students, resources available and ways that we can work together to support all CCSA scholars.

##### **B. Monthly Title I Workshops**

In accordance with the State Parent Advisory Council (SPAC), CCSA will hold monthly workshops that target the areas of career awareness, personal development, parent/school involvement, life skills, and Title I rights and responsibilities of both the school and parents. Parents are given the opportunity to hear from experts in each of these fields and receive tools that can be applied instantly. The school will provide adequate childcare for parents who wish to attend these meetings but otherwise would not be able.

##### **C. Parent/Teacher Conferences**

The Chester Charter School for the Arts will hold a flexible number of meetings at varying times that allow parents to actively engage with their child's teacher regarding their academic progress and next steps forward.

##### **D. Community Partnerships**

The Chester Charter School for the Arts will maintain partnerships with the Mayor's Office of Community Liaisons, WE IN US, LLC, and The Chester Fund for Education in an effort to stimulate volunteer opportunities that build character, scholarship, craftsmanship, and purpose driven collaborations between our parents and staff outside of the classroom.

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<sup>1</sup> United States Department of Education, April 2004, Parental Involvement Guidance, Section A-1.

<sup>2</sup> United States Department of Education, April 2004, Parental Involvement Guidance, Section A-3.



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### **E. School-Wide Plan Involvement and Decision Making**

1. The Chester Charter School for the Arts will provide an opportunity each year for parents to participate as organizers and contributors in the completion of the Charter School's Annual Report as it relates to developing the school-wide plan for that current year.
2. Additionally, there will always be at least one parent on the Board of Trustees.<sup>3</sup>

### **Communicating Information**

- A. The Chester Charter School for the Arts will inform parents each week through a "Family Focus" letter. This letter will highlight weekly accomplishments, areas of concern, and upcoming opportunities for parental involvement.
- B. The Chester Charter School for the Arts will inform parents, daily of attendance and behavior issues through automatic call systems, manual phone calls home, and mailed correspondence. The school will also provide parents with solutions to dissolve these issues in a way that least disturbs the instructional plan of the scholar.
- C. The Chester Charter School for the Arts will continue to invite parents and families to all Public Board Meetings.

### **Annual Assessments and Evaluations**

The Chester Charter School for the Arts will solicit feedback from parents at the end of the year to measure the fulfillment of their expectations of the school as related to parental involvement. The school will use the feedback as a tool when developing the Title I program for the upcoming year.

### **CCSA's Commitment**

- A. The Chester Charter School for the Arts will remain committed to closing the gap between home and school, and the barriers that manifest as a result of such gaps in students academic success.
- B. The Chester Charter School for the Arts will continue to engage parents in the education of their children by remaining transparent in our expectations of our parents and by allowing our parents to present their expectations of the faculty and staff at CCSA.
- C. The Chester Charter School for the Arts will continue to provide the best educational plan of instruction for all of its scholars.

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<sup>3</sup> The Chester Charter School for the Arts Charter Application, September 30, 2011, pg. 59