

Venture Academy
Title I Parent Involvement Plan
2015-2016

District/School Mission Statement emphasizing Parental Involvement

Venture Academy is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child in this district. To this end, we want to establish partnerships with parents and with the community. Everyone gains if school and home work together to promote high achievement by our children. Neither home nor school can do the job alone. Parents play an extremely important role as children's first teachers. Their support for their children and for the school is critical to their children's success at every step along the way.

Part I. District Expectations

District must establish the district's expectations for parent involvement. [Section 1118(a)(2), ESEA.]

Venture Academy agrees to implement the following requirements:

- Venture Academy will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I programs. Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Venture Academy will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent involvement plan meets the Title I requirements, and includes, as a component, a school-parent compact.
- Venture Academy will incorporate this district-wide parent involvement plan into its district plan.
- In carrying out the Title I parent involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, Venture Academy will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents with children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the Venture Academy plan for Title I is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when it submits the plan to Minnesota Department of Education.

Part II. District/School Parent Involvement Plan Required Components

1. Venture Academy will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district/school parent involvement plan:
 - a. Venture Academy will hold an annual meeting for Title I parents to develop the parent involvement plan. In order to facilitate the process, parents will be presented with a proposed template for the parent involvement plan and have the opportunity to make additions, provide input and feedback, and approve the plan as they see fit. This meeting will take place during the fall semester of each academic year. Venture Academy CEO Jon Bacal will serve as the contact person and organizer of this annual meeting. Contact phone number: (612) 345-9040
2. Venture Academy will involve parents in the process of district and school plan, review and improvement [i.e. district plan, section 1112, schoolwide section 1114, and/or school improvement section 1116];
 - a. How will the school/district inform parents of the school report card? School report cards will be sent home quarterly with students as well as mailed to households. To the best of our ability, Venture will translate narrative sections of report cards for non-English-speaking parents. Translations will either be written or verbal.
 - b. How will the district/school notify the parents that their child's school has been identified as needs improvement? Venture Academy will mail a notice to all households.
 - c. How will the school identify students who qualify for Title I services? Venture Academy will implement a schoolwide program (SWP).
 - d. How will the district/school involve parents of students in the identified sub-groups as part of the school support team? Venture Academy will encourage all parents to be involved in the school support team and will specifically invite parents of students in the identified sub-groups to participate.
 - e. How will the district/school conduct staff development for implementing effective strategies for parental involvement? Venture Academy has an extensive and ongoing professional development program that includes one afternoon each week dedicated to staff development activities. Venture Academy will dedicate time annually to strategize a school-wide parent involvement plan and will continually discuss and strategize measures to increase parent involvement. Venture Academy staff conducts parent phone calls, conferences, and written communication on an ongoing daily basis.
3. Venture Academy will involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review and improvement of Title I programs and the school parental involvement plan.
4. Venture Academy will offer a number of flexible meeting options, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement.

5. Venture Academy will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance and other support to assist Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
6. Venture Academy will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the activities specifically described below.
 - a. Since the school's founding, Venture Academy has actively and successfully encouraged parent involvement. A group of parents were engaged in the design process by sharing their dreams for their children's education. During the planning year, Venture hosted a dozen open houses to gather further parent input. As Venture Academy readied for opening day, parents contributed to decisions on food service choice, facility, school calendar, dress code, homework policy, and more. Parents will continue to provide insight as part of quarterly 360-degree school evaluations, where they will rate their satisfaction in several key areas (just as students do). Additionally, Venture understands that each student's learning requires a solid partnership with parents, and the school engages parents to act as tutors, mentors, and guides to Venture Academy students. Parents are actively informed and involved in their children's learning progress through ongoing parent conferences (for which Venture hires translation support and recruits bilingual volunteer translators to interpret conferences with non-English-speaking parents). Venture also continually provides translation support to enable non-English-speaking families to fully participate in all school activities and in their children's education.
7. If the schoolwide program plan 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.
8. Venture Academy will provide support to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following.
 - a. the state's academic content standards,
 - b. the state's student academic achievement standards,
 - c. the state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
 - d. the requirements of Title I,
 - e. how to monitor their child's progress, and
 - f. how to work with educators.
9. Venture Academy will provide parents of participating children, if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practically possible.

10. Venture Academy will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.
11. Venture Academy will, with the assistance of its Title I parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools.
12. Venture Academy will take the following actions to ensure that Title I 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.
13. Venture Academy will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement plan in improving the quality of its Title I schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement plan and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement plan.
 - a. Venture Academy will conduct 360-degree school and staff reviews twice during each academic year. Parents will evaluate the school and staff on measures related to Title I programs, including identifying barriers to parental involvement. Venture Academy and its Title I parents will use this feedback during each review process of the parent involvement plan and incorporate suggestions, changes, and additions to the plan as provided by parent evaluations. Venture Academy's leadership team will be responsible for conducting this evaluation twice during each school year. The parent association will aid in developing the evaluation to ensure it fully addresses parent involvement.
14. Venture Academy will convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under this part and to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved. The annual meeting will be held once during each school year at Venture Academy.
15. Venture Academy will involve parents in the decisions regarding how funds reserved for parental involvement activities.

16. If the schoolwide program plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, Venture Academy will submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.

Part III. Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement

As a component of the school-level parental involvement plan, each school shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under this part a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement.

1. Conduct a parent/teacher conference in elementary schools, annually (at a minimum), during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement;
 - Venture Academy conducts parent/teacher conferences each quarter to discuss report cards and student progress. Conferences will include the discussion of the school-parent compact as it relates to the individual student's achievement.
2. Provide frequent reports to parents on their children's progress; and
 - Venture Academy provides report cards every trimester (that track academic progress and learning growth) and weekly progress reports (that track behavioral and effort measures). Parents also have access to the parent portal for their student's Personalized Learning Plan, allowing them a live-time update to their student's progress.
3. Provide parents with reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class and observation of classroom activities.
 - Venture Academy always welcomes and continually encourages parents to participate in all school activities, volunteer at the school, and participate in the parent association.

Part IV. Discretionary District/School Parental Involvement Plan Components

The Venture Academy Parent Involvement Plan the following discretionary activities to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement:

- For events requiring parent participation, Venture Academy will pay reasonable and necessary transportation expenses to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
- Train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.
- In order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, Venture Academy will arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home

conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school.

- Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement.
- Venture Academy will provide translation services to non-English-speaking parents to maximize involvement in parent conferences, open houses, and other school events.
- Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

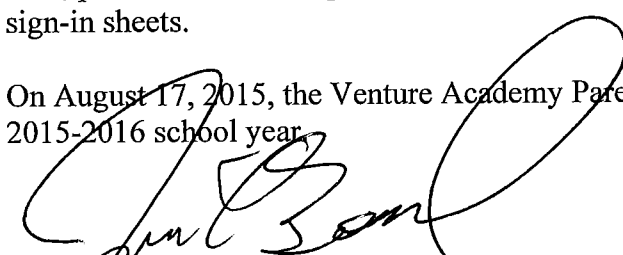
Part V. Accessibility

In carrying out the parental involvement requirements of this part, Venture Academy, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents of children with limited English proficiency, parents of children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents can understand.

Part VI. Adoption

The Venture Academy Parent Involvement Plan has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I programs, as evidenced by meeting minutes and sign-in sheets.

On August 17, 2015, the Venture Academy Parent Involvement Plan will be in effect for the 2015-2016 school year.



Signature of Title I Authorized Representative



Date

These parents were involved with the development of the Venture Academy Parent Involvement Plan:

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Andrea Corpstein
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