

TITLE I PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

University High School (UHS) is fully committed to involving the parents/guardians of students enrolled in Title 1 Programs. The school's Title 1 Parent Involvement Policy was the byproduct of parent and site-staff input. Parents were initially engaged in many ways. The school used an annual parent survey (sent to all parents), held parent focus-group meetings during the initial accreditation process, and gathered input at monthly parent meetings held by the parent club called Phoenix Alliance. Through this work, a parent-involvement policy was developed.

UHS distributes a parent-student handbook to each parent every summer during registration and provides a second copy to students in the first week before school. The handbook contains a notification of the policy which is officially posted on our school website. Parents of students enrolled in Title 1 programs also receive a qualifying letter from the school that communicates the services to which their student is entitled. This policy describes the means for carrying out the following Title I parental involvement requirements [20 USC 6318 Section 1118(a)-(f) inclusive].

Involvement of Parents in the Title I Program

To involve parents in the Title I program at UHS, the following practices have been established:

1. UHS convenes an annual meeting to inform parents of Title I students about Title I requirements and about the right of parents to be involved in the Title I program. The meeting happens at the school's Open House each year and parents are notified before the event of the meeting. [20 U.S.C. 6318(c)(1)]
2. UHS offers a flexible number of meetings for Title I parents, such as meetings in the morning or evening. Counselors hold these individualized meetings with all of their students, and parents are regularly included. At those meetings, parents are reminded of the school programs and how parents can access them. [20 U.S.C. 6318(c)(2)]
3. UHS involves parents of Title I students in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's Title I programs and the Title I Parent Involvement Policy. The school accomplishes this in several ways. First, via our parent survey which is sent out each year to all parents. The collective feedback from parents has fundamentally shaped our programs and continues to lead to change. Secondly, our monthly Phoenix Alliance parent meetings serve as a forum for the school administration to engage with parents about the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policies and the joint development of the school-wide program under Title 1. [20 U.S.C. 6318(c)(3)]

4. UHS provides parents of Title I students with timely information about Title I programs. The school has several ways it accomplishes this goal. First, all freshman parents are invited to a meeting with the school administration before the school year begins. Secondly, the school sends a personalized letter to parents of students that qualify for Title 1 programs. Third, all students are personally notified by the school administration at the beginning of the year about their participation in the Title 1 programs and about the support the school can provide for them regarding such things as transportation, etc. [20 U.S.C. 6318(c)(4)A]
5. UHS provides parents of Title I students with an explanation of the curriculum used at the school, the assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet. The school holds 4-5 information days each year that outline the UHS curriculum. The curriculum by-grade-level is also sent to parents each year at registration, is posted on the website, and can visibly be found in the school's administrative office. Lastly, all parents are invited to a meeting in which they learn how to can monitor their students' progress and attendance via the online PowerSchool program. Additionally, the school holds personalized conferences with parents of sophomores and their students to discuss the students' progress and achievement. [20 U.S.C. 6318(c)(4)B]
6. If requested by parents of Title I students, UHS provides opportunities for regular meetings that allow the parents to participate in decisions relating to the education of their children. All parents are introduced to their student's academic counselor via school literature, meetings, and website and are given their student's counselor contact information. Parents are encouraged to contact the counselor if they have any questions about their child's progress and achievement. [20 U.S.C. 6318(c)(4)C]

School-Parent Compact

UHS distributes to parents of Title I students a school-parent compact. The compact, which has been jointly developed with parents, outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. It describes specific ways the school and families will partner to help children achieve the state's high academic standards. It addresses the following legally required items, as well as other items suggested by parents of Title I students:

- University High School acknowledges its responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction to all students. The UHS curriculum as outlined in our school charter outlines all courses our students will take and also how student academic achievement will be measured for the curriculum students are provided. This charter, which the school posts on the website and shares with parents, serves

as our parent compact and shows parents the commitment UHS has to a high-quality, rigorous education. [20 U.S.C. 6318(d)(1)]

- The school handbook and charter outline ways parents can be responsible for supporting their children's learning through such means as volunteering in the classroom and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children. The parent organization, Phoenix Alliance, was created to assist parents who wanted to volunteer at the school. The organization promotes and communicates volunteering activities and provides leadership for parents that want to participate but are unsure how to do so.
- UHS is committed to regular communication between parents and teachers through, at a minimum, annual parent-teacher conferences, frequent reports on student progress, access to staff, opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and opportunities to observe classroom activities. [U.S.C. 6318(c)(2)]

Building Capacity for Involvement

UHS engages Title I parents in meaningful interactions with the school. The school supports a partnership among staff, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. To help reach these goals, UHS has established the following practices:

1. UHS provides Title I parents with assistance in understanding the state's academic content standards, assessments, and how to monitor and improve the achievement of their children (e.g. our parent orientation held the week before school begins is open to all parents and regularly provides parents news about state standards and state testing and how to help their schools, as does our financial aide workshop and our Junior College Night). [U.S.C. 6318(e)(1)]
2. UHS provides Title I parents with materials and training, such as literacy training and technology training (including education about the dangers of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, to help them work with their student to improve their student's achievement. [U.S.C. 6318(e) (2)]
3. With the assistance of Title I parents, UHS will educate staff members about the value of parent contributions and how to reach out, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and the school. [U.S.C. 6318(e)(3)]