

ODYSSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS  
ES/MS/HS  
Parent Involvement Policy  
2015-2016

**Introduction**

This policy has been jointly developed and agreed upon by The Odyssey Charter Schools and the parents of students served in the school pursuant to Title I. The Odyssey Charter Schools will convene an annual meeting at a convenient time for parents to evaluate this policy. This meeting will be held by the fourth week of September.

The school's parent involvement policy, developed by staff, parents, and governing board members will be disbursed in an understandable and uniform format and to the extent practicable, in a language parents can understand. The parent involvement policy will also be made available to the community as requested by posting the policy in the main office and on the school web site.

**Plans for Including Parents in the Writing of the School Improvement Plan**

The Odyssey Charter Schools will involve parents in an organized, systematic, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, school improvement plan, and the parent involvement policy. The Odyssey Charter Schools is based on parent involvement. When necessary, parents will come in to school for specific meetings and planning sessions. They also will correspond through email for input on programs, policies and plans.

**Timeline for Sending Home the Educational Involvement Accord**

The Educational Involvement Accord will be provided to all parents during the parent/student orientations held in August of each year prior to the commencement of the school year. It will also be placed on the school web site with the Parent/Student Handbook by the first day of each school year. For parents enrolling their children after the school year begins, the parents will be directed to the school web site for all information as it pertains to the Educational Involvement Accord. A signed copy will be kept on file at the school for all students.

**Pledge from the Administration and Staff**

The administration and staff of The Odyssey Charter Schools will:

- Provide assistance to parents, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the state's academic content and achievement standards, the Nevada Academic Content Standards, state and local assessments, and the requirements of Title I. All parents receive initial information at the mandated orientation prior to enrollment.

- Provide assistance to parents, as appropriate, in understanding their student's academic progress, state mandated test scores, and how to work with the school staff to improve student academic achievement. Our teachers and staff have mandated weekly contact with all parents on their caseload. Additionally, small group parent instruction is available and occurs for reading/literacy labs for the parents to fully access and understand the programs.
- Provide high quality curriculum and instruction that is based on high academic achievement integrating the Nevada Academic Content Standards as a baseline for sound instructional practices.
- Provide high quality instruction in an accredited secondary school environment signaling the school's mission to develop a supportive, effective learning environment enabling students to meet high school graduation requirements and to meet state academic standards.
- Discuss with all parents of on-line students the responsibilities of every stakeholder within the process. Parents will be informed of their important role in the process and parents will be shown how to log in and see student progress on an ongoing basis. Parents will be able to constantly monitor their child's progress and be aware if there are any problems with grades or with pace of the curriculum. Parents attend the mandated orientation and to receive training and thereafter, weekly parent/teacher contacts.
- Offer parent involvement activities in the school that will include opportunities for parents to volunteer, to become involved in school activities, to receive tutorial assistance and direct instruction for assisting their children to learn at home, to offer opportunities for parents to sit through before and after school tutorial sessions with their children to learn what and how to support their children with homework and the online instruction. Our Pass That Class tutoring sessions are held quarterly. We have a licensed teacher who is our Parents as Teachers parent advocate. Workshops are conducted throughout the year designed to give Odyssey parents teaching strategies and ideas to use when working with their child at home.
- Provide a variety of experiences where parents and family members may participate in school decision making, develop effective communication between the school and families, participate in evening events where parents can view their children's performances in academic and enrichment activities and participate in school-community events. Through our P.A.T. teacher and our Community Events Coordinator family activities and events are scheduled throughout the day and evening monthly bringing families together to our campus.
- Provide materials and training to assist parents in working with their children to improve student achievement to include: a) literacy development; b) language and speaking development; c) science night; d) homework /online assistance technology assistance. Out P.A.T classes and community events encompass all academics and technology

instruction. Odyssey Charter Schools have a K-12 Literacy initiative with a dedicated Literacy Lab staffed by Literacy Specialists open to all students 7:30 am to 4 pm daily.

- Provide access to educational resources for parents to use with their children.
- Our professional development includes educating teachers and staff on how to work effectively with parents and how to improve the instructional program for all students.
- Information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to parents in a format that parents are able to understand.

### **Parent Engagement**

Our school social workers coordinate parent involvement programs and community based activities that encourage and support parents' at the most basic level in order to assist them to function as a family. They coordinate with our school counselors to seek out resources families need day-to-day while participating in the education of their children. Odyssey Charter Schools support parental involvement and assist parents by aligning families with agencies and/or staff members who have the needed expertise.