

# **FAMILY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (FIC) POLICY**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the Family Involvement Committee.

**Policy:** A Family Involvement Committee (FIC) that will be comprised of parents and other family members and an academy representative will be formed to oversee and coordinate activities. The committee will oversee the coordination of field trips, family literacy events, parental education activities, and volunteer activities in the school. The school views family involvement as having great value and want our families to be involved in the classroom and at home, but understand that 70% of school-age children have both parents in the workforce (Children's Defense Fund, 2010). To facilitate greater family involvement, Weber State University Charter Academy will allow for flexibility in time and place to enable family members to volunteer their talents and interests. Some potential activities include:

- A parent volunteer meeting scheduled at the beginning of each academy year;
- Parent surveys sent home for parents to list their desired ways to volunteer;
- Flexible parent volunteer opportunities provided at academy or at home;
- Parent volunteers help with trips, indoor and outdoor classrooms, or other activities held throughout the year;
- Training for parents as needed for parent volunteers;
- Parent and family coordinated field trip activities in the local community;
- Parenting workshops on child guidance, discipline, academic involvement, dialogic reading strategies, and other relevant areas.

WSU Charter Academy values parents having a voice and participating in decision-making by working together with educators to share their ideas and views, solve problems, and work toward a shared vision. The FIC will provide opportunities for parents to act as leaders for other parents by representing their opinions, ideas, and concerns on behalf of children's learning and development. Additionally, these parent leaders can bring the information about academy decisions and policies back to the families. Many parents will have the opportunity to serve on various supporting committees of the academy. Among the tasks of the Board of Directors will be to annually review parent involvement and academy policies and provide feedback and recommendations.

Measurement of family involvement will include the number of parents who volunteer in the academy, who serve on academy committees/boards, who participate in fieldtrip activities, and who benefit from parenting and family literacy educational activities. Measures will include those developed by Bowen and Richman (2005).

## **NOTIFICATION**

The Board of Directors will notify the school community of Board meetings via e-mail, on the school's website, on the annual calendar, and through agendas posted at the school building. Parents, teachers, students, and members of the community are welcome to attend Board meetings and voice their opinions. Families may e-mail comments or concerns to the Board and may contact individual Board members to discuss school issues.

## **VOLUNTEERING**

### ***Parent Volunteer Service and Committees***

Parental involvement manifests itself at the highest level in volunteering, measured by when parents meet the request for 30 hours of volunteer service each year. Parents are encouraged to accept positions or assignments from the administration. Parents may also volunteer or be asked to establish committees to enrich the life of the school. Committees will assist in coordinating the activity of parent volunteers in the school and will assist with other school functions such as fundraising, school events, and student recognition. The activities of committees will include duties that take place both during school hours and the in the evenings so that all parents have opportunities to participate.

### ***Sharing Knowledge and Expertise***

WSU Charter Academy recognizes that our parents will embody a great resource of knowledge and experience that can be extremely valuable to the school and that can be tapped in order to benefit the school's students. Parents with applicable experience or expertise may be invited to participate in presentations on topics that align with curriculum objectives, in virtual fieldtrips, or in other special events or presentations.

### ***Student Award Celebrations***

The administration will establish a means of regularly recognizing student achievement. Parents will be invited to WSU Charter Academy for presentations associated with those awards.