

Parental Involvement Policy

St. HOPE Public Schools (SHPS; consisting of 2 distinct and separate independent charter schools; St. HOPE Public School 7 and Sacramento Charter High School) is committed to working with parents and guardians to provide high quality education for all students at the schools. It is only when students, parents, families, staff, teachers, administrators and the community get involved that students can continue to increase academic achievement and grow as individual citizens.

We encourage all parents to be involved in their students education as well as the overall school programs for the benefit of all students. To this end, the schools have established, in conjunction with parent groups and with St. HOPE Public Schools Board of Directors approval, the following Parental Involvement Policy to provide parents the opportunity to be involved in creating policies, decision making, and taking an active role as advocate for all students at PS7 and Sac High.

As per the Elementary and Secondary Education Action (ESEA; section 1118(a)), SHPS will implement the following statutory requirements (at each school separately unless otherwise noted):

SHPS will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of the local plan and the process of school review:

- Convene a School Site Council at each school consisting of administrators, teachers, staff, parents, and students (at Sac High only) who are entered onto the council by peer vote (with the exception of administrators).
- Make the school site plan available to all parents via each school's website and also in hard copy upon request.
- Provide parents with the opportunity to give input into the local plan via surveys, meetings, and other means as feasible and practical.

SHPS will take the following actions to plan and implement effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

- Provide all staff, teachers, parents, and students with the school's School-Parent Compact (*Commitment to Excellence Contract*) to identify activities and responsibilities for the education of all students.
- Review and revise the School-Parent Compact annually in conjunction with the School Site Council.
- Provide opportunities to review the School-Parent compact with parents at back to school nights/open house or other.
- Provide parents with information regarding school performance, curriculum, core content, student assessments, and parents' rights.
- Provide parents with frequent and up-to-date information on individual student academic progress in writing, in person, and via the PowerSchool student information system. At Sac High parents will receive, and be required to sign, classroom grades and attendance one time per week (Accountability Tuesdays) in addition to end of semester and term grades. At PS7, parents will receive frequent progress reports, including end of trimester grades, and PS7 will hold parent-teacher conferences a minimum of three (3) times per year

SHPS will do the following to build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement:

- Convene a School Site Council at each school and other advisory committees as necessary.

- Provide all parents at each school with a complete copy of the Parental Involvement Policy via the student handbook, direct mailing or back to school nights/open house and by making the plan available at each school's main office by October 1 (after Board of Directors approval).
- Utilize a *Parent Liaison* that coordinates parent communication, workshops, activities and clubs to educate, empower and train parents.
- Hold back to school meetings.
- Provide, as necessary, training for parents to enhance involvement in specific activities or committees.
- Offer alternative opportunities for parent involvement by scheduling alternative meeting dates/time and conducting in-home conferences for those parents unable to participate in regularly scheduled meetings.

SHPS will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies into other programs by:

- Involving community organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities.

SHPS will conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy and use the findings to design more effective parental involvement by:

- Identifying barriers to participation by parents (especially limited English proficiency, limited literacy, and minority parents).
- Tracking parent volunteering and attendance at schoolwide meetings.

SHPS will take the following actions to involve parents in the activities of Title I schools:

- Hold an annual meeting (for each school separately) to inform parents of their school's participation in Title I, Title I requirements, and their right to be involved.
- To the extent feasible, each school will vary meeting times, dates, places to increase parental involvement.
- Provide parents with opportunities to volunteer and actively support school initiatives (i.e., charter renewal) at his/her student's school. Parents of PS7 students will be required to contribute 40 hours of voluntary service to the school.
- Utilize a variety of communication methods to ensure parental involvement.

SHPS will provide notice and information under the 'Parents Right to Know' requirements to all parents in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practical, in a language parents can understand via student handbooks, parent-school meetings, and other means as necessary.

Notices pertain to, but are not limited to:

- Teacher and paraprofessional qualifications, including highly qualified teachers
- Program Improvement status of school and any relevant information (i.e., school choice)
- English Language Learner program participation
- Military release of information (Sac High only)