

Sankofa Freedom Academy Charter School Title I Parental Involvement Policy 2015-2016

The Title I Parent Involvement section of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires each Title I school to develop a written parental involvement policy that describes the means for carrying out the requirements of Section 1118.

Six Federal Requirements to Build Parents' Capacity to be Involved in School

1. Assist parents in understanding the State's academic content standards, student academic achievement standards and academic assessments
2. Provide material and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, to foster parent involvement.
3. Educate school personnel, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach, communicate and work with parents
4. Coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other organizations such as Head Start, Parents as Teachers, etc.
5. Ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to parents in a format and language that parents can understand
6. Provide reasonable support for parent involvement activities as parents request

The faculty, staff, and parents of Sankofa Freedom Academy Charter School (Sankofa) believe that it “takes a village” to prepare children to become lifelong learners and contributing members of a changing society. Sankofa encourages education for the entire family and works to support the adults in continuing to provide what children and communities need to be successful. This is done by creating situations where families not only feel welcomed to participate but are provided numerous opportunities for involvement in the educational, social action, and Wazuri council of the school. Just as Sankofa Freedom Academy values the expertise of its teachers as school based educators, parents and other family members are valued as home based educators.

Parental Involvement activities in Sankofa will include opportunities for:

- Parents to be involved in the planning, review and improvement of Title I programs and policies
- Parent Teacher conferences will be held at least three times annually.
- Parents to participate in the Wazuri council.
- Parents to volunteer and be involved in activities within the school
- Review of the Parental Involvement Policy via Sankofa’s website

With regard to the professional development, Sankofa will:

- Provide staff development to improve student achievement and facilitate school improvement
- Provide intervention strategies and programs to staff and parents
- Involve parents in the ongoing planning, review and improvement of Title I programs and policies.

With regard to parent meetings, Sankofa will:

- Host a meeting to inform parents of the school's participation in the Title I program, the requirements of Title I and the rights of parents to be involved
- Inform parents in a timely manner of conferences and encourage attendance through notices sent home, monthly newsletters, and via school web page. Alternative times will be offered to parents who are unable to attend

With regard to Title I programs and plans, Sankofa will:

- Inform parents of the goals and purpose of the Title I Program, the Literacy and Numeracy programs implemented, the assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels the students are expected to meet
- Provide opportunities for parents to offer suggestions and ask questions regarding the Title I program and policies
- Provide timely responses from administration to parent's suggestions and questions
- Advise parents of their child's progress on a regular basis through:
 - Sending papers home
 - Weekly telephone calls (10 students per week)
 - Eight week progress reports
 - Reports cards
- Parent/Teacher conferences held at least twice a year where the student/parent/teacher compact will be discussed as it relates to the student's progress
- Provide opportunities for parents to volunteer around the school and to participate in their child's classroom and observe classroom activities.