**Parent Involvement Policy (2015-2016)**

Bear Creek Community Charter School is committed to the belief that all students can learn and acknowledges that schools and parents share a commitment to the educational success of children. A critical component to our students’ success is the on-going support and participation of our parents/guardians. The faculty and staff at Bear Creek Community Charter School appreciate the importance of an informed working partnership between the students, their families, the community at large and the staff at our school. We believe that when all of us work together, a student becomes a more confident and successful life-long learner.  
   
According to research, students with involved parents tend to have better achievement scores. More importantly, these students recognize that their education is important to all of the key adults in their lives. While we recognize the importance of parent involvement, we also realize that parents have many home and work challenges that might prevent traditional involvement in the school setting. We plan to offer different opportunities for parents to participate in our students’ educations. In order to assure collaborative partnerships between parents and teachers, Bear Creek Community Charter School is committed to pursuing different ways that celebrate and respect the diversity of our school population and that support the individual needs of our families.

**Bear Creek Community Charter School’s School-wide Title I Program**

* Bear Creek Community Charter School operates a school-wide Title I program. A schoolwide program is a comprehensive reform strategy designed to upgrade the entire educational program in a Title I school; its primary goal is to ensure that all students, particularly those who are low-achieving, demonstrate proficient and advanced levels of achievement on State academic achievement standards.
* Each year we hold an annual Title I parent information meeting for all parents in the fall of each school year. This can take place in the form of a meeting during the school day or in the evening. This year our parents were able to come meet with Title I staff and learn more about our Title I program during both Open House evenings. Each year parents have the opportunity to review the current parent involvement policy and make recommendations for revisions. A Title I brochure that explains the Title I program was provided to parents. If anyone would like a copy of the Title I brochure, please e-mail Mrs. Hyjurick at [rikki.hyjurick@bearcreekschool.com](mailto:rikki.hyjurick@bearcreekschool.com) .
* Parents can also access the Title I Department’s website to receive additional information about the program. Many resources will be posted on this website to help parents understand the program better. (<http://websites.pdesas.org/rikkihyjurick/default.aspx> )

**Ongoing Communication and Parent Involvement Activities**

* Parents can stay informed on a regular basis through the use of the school website [www.bearcreekschool.com](http://www.bearcreekschool.com). This is ongoing and current information that parents can access at any time concerning all aspects of our school.
* At parent/teacher conferences, all parents are provided with assessment and curriculum information from the classroom teacher. This includes the most recent PSSA report for students as well as any benchmark information that is necessary to be shared. If additional help is needed to better understand the curriculum or PA Core Standards, please let the school know so we can offer specific training.
* Parents can monitor their child’s grades on a regular basis through Power School. This information is sent home in the summer mailing with login information. For more information about the Parent Portal, please visit <http://www.bearcreekschool.com/parentportal.php>. If you do not have your current login information, please see Mrs. Colleran in the main office.
* During conferences the Title I compact is reviewed and signed. The Title I compact is a document that has been jointly developed by parents and staff. The compact lists specific responsibilities for students, parents, and staff that will help students be successful in school. This compact is reviewed annually with members of the School Improvement Team.
* An annual evaluation of the Title I program effectiveness will be conducted through our Parent Satisfaction Survey at the end of the school year. The school will use the findings from the Title I portion to plan for the next school year’s Title I program. Parents are asked to be involved in the review and revision of the School-wide Title I plan and how we operate our Title I program. This is done through semi-annual meetings of the School Improvement Team.
* Parents have the opportunity to join the Volunteer Advisory Committee (VAC) and attend monthly meetings where members help plan and implement school activities and promote parent involvement. Our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is also very involved in promoting parent involvement.
* The Title I department will hold at least one annual Title I event. The parent and child will participate in various engaging learning activities. This year our first Title I event will be held in the evening of **February 25, 2016**. It is titled “Reading in Snow Much Fun.” Together we will gather at the new school to engage in some fun literacy activities. In the spring we will host a parent training called “Stop the Summer Slide,” which will focus on how to help your child with English Language Arts and offer suggestions on things that can be done in the summer to prevent the regression of skills. Title I funds can be used to pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent involvement activities. This can include offering free child care in order for the parent to attend trainings. If you have suggestions for future parent trainings, please feel free to contact Mrs. Hyjurick.
* Parents of incoming Kindergarten students are required to attend an informational session during New Student Registration to learn about the expectations that we have for our Kindergarten students.