



UTOPIAN
ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS

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We are Unique. We are Utopian.



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Federal Programs Annual Title I

August 31, 2023
Dr. Lisa Melton
Federal Programs Director



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Meeting Agenda

Title I Overview and Purpose
How Title I Funds Can Be Used
School-Based Title I Decisions
Parent and Family Engagement
School Parent and Family Compact
Parent and Family and Engagement Policy
Communication
Homeless Eligibility and Information
Question and Dialogue



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Title I Requirements for Utopian

Title I determination is based on poverty levels

About Title I

Title I is a program created by the US Department of Education that distributes funds to States who, in turn, provide funding to school districts. The districts distribute funds to schools with a high percentage of students from low-income families. The act was funded to emphasize equal access to education and establish high standards and accountability. Beginning in 1965 as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the law has had multiple iterations over the years. The most recent reauthorization was in 2015 by then President Barack Obama as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which provides the current framework and guidelines for the use of funding.





Purpose of Title I

The Purpose of Title I

To ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education.



Title I funds are to be used to:

- Supplement the existing instructional programs that are funded with state and local funds.**
- Increase academic achievement levels of struggling students.**

Title I funds can be used for:

- **Literacy and math specialists**
- **Tutoring**
- **Technology equipment**
- **Parent Family Engagement Activities**
- **Professional Development Activities**
- **Student supplies and materials**
- **Student support positions**



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School Curriculum and Assessments

Utopian Middle School uses the Ga Department of Public Education Curriculum.

The following assessments are used:

iReady Diagnostics

Beacon Testing three times a year (assessment on how students will perform on milestones and it shows growth)

School-Based Title I Decisions

- Includes parent and stakeholder input**
- Data Informed (EOG, EOC, state report card, absentee reports, suspension rates, retention rates, Teacher Working Condition surveys, etc.)**
- The CLIP determines areas of greatest need and develops strategies to address those needs.**
- Title I funding is used to support the action steps and goals in the CLIP.**



Parent Family Engagement

Title I Parent Family and Engagement

Convene	Convene an Annual Title I Meeting (this is the meeting)
Offer	Offer a flexible number of meetings
Involve	Involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way as we plan, review, improve, and develop the school Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Schoolwide Plan
Provide	Provide timely information about curriculum, assessments, and alternative levels
Provide	Provide opportunities for regular meetings
Provide	Provide opportunities for parents' comments

Parent and Family Engagement

Shared Responsibility for High Student Academic Achievement

- **Develop School-Parent Compact**
- **Describe school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment**
- **Describe ways parents are responsible for supporting learning, volunteering, and decision making (as appropriate)**
- **Address importance of communication between parents and teachers:**
- **Annual teacher conference at elementary level to discuss compact**
- **Frequent progress reports to parents**
- **Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer, participate, observe child's classroom**
- **Ensuring meaningful two-way communication in a language parents can understand**

Parent and Family Engagement

Building Capacity

- Provide assistance for parents
- Provide materials and training
- Educate school personnel
- Coordinate and integrate funding sources
- Ensure the information is understandable
- Provide opportunities for parents with Limited English Proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children

School Parent and Family Engagement Compact and Policy

What is a School-Parent Compact?

Our annual school-parent compact offers ways that we can work together to help our students succeed. This compact provides strategies to help ensure learning at school and at home.

Effective components:

- Link to academic achievement goals
- Focus on student learning
- Share strategies that staff, parents, and students can use
- Explain how parents and teachers can communicate about student progress
- Describe opportunities for parents to observe, volunteer, and participate in the classroom.

Jointly Developed

Parents, students, and staff worked together and shared ideas to develop the school-parent compact. Teachers collaborated to determine ways to better engage parents and to assist parents with their scholars at home. Parents provided valuable feedback on their needs to help their children and to make improvements at school. Students provided input to school leaders that was used to create the compact. Meetings are held each year to review and revise the compact based on the school's academic goals and needs. Parents may provide feedback to the compact at any time during the school year. All feedback will be collected and reviewed during the annual stakeholder meeting.

Activities to Build Partnerships

The success of Utopian Academy for the Arts depends on strong relationships between the school, parents, and the community.

Parents will be engaged in multiple ways:

- Invitations to Meet & Greet, Open House, Curriculum Nights, and arts programs
- Input surveys to provide feedback to school leaders
- Volunteer opportunities
- Parent-Teacher Association
- Parent Family Engagement events

Utopian Academy for the Arts
A Performing Arts School



2023-2024 School Compact
Developed 2/22/2023 - 6/21/2023

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Utopian Academy for the Arts
Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2023-2024
Revised April 25, 2023
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What is Family Engagement?

Family Engagement means the participation of parents and family members in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- (B) That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- (C) That parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.
- (D) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA.



About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Utopian Academy for the Arts School District (UAFASD) has developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnership in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe UAFA's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals. Title I ("Title One"), a provision of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act passed in 1965, is a program created by the U.S. Department of Education to distribute funding to schools and school districts with a high percentage of students from low-income families. The purpose of this title is to ensure that all children have a

fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging State academic achievement standards and state academic assessments.

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and enjoy school more. Title I, Part A provides for substantive family engagement at every level of the program, such as establishing a parent advisory board and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children's education. Consistent with Section 1116, the UAFA will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.



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Ways Parents can be involved and Parent Communication

Involvement

Parents will be provided surveys throughout the year for feedback and input
Parent Teacher conferences will be held two times a year (1st conference will be held on 11/3/2023)

A Parent Advisory Board will be established this school year (Mr. Smith will be providing information soon)

Communication

We will use Parent Square

Class Dojo

Infinite Campus

Daily Agendas

Questions and Dialogues

