

School Year 2022-2023

What is Family Engagement?

At Atlanta Unbound Academy (AUA) family engagement is the most important part of our Tribe experience. For us as an organization it means that there is consistent and clear communication between families and the school. We expect family communication to enhance the following:

1. Parent and family awareness of student academic and behavioral performance
2. Home and school connection between what is happening and for the family and school to be able to mirror practices that support the child's success.
3. Parents support the school in initiatives and provide feedback that enhance the family and student's experience. This may include an advisory committee to assist in a child's education.
4. Supporting all activities that are put forth in Section 1116 of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

AUA has developed a parent and family engagement policy to ensure that the school meets the needs of our stakeholders and can support the development of a strong social emotional and academic support between the school and home. Our plan explains how AUA plans to engage with our Family Tribe stakeholders to enhance the academics and overall wellbeing of our student body. There is a plethora of research that promotes the notion that the more families and students are engaged in the school the better the academic outcome is for students. As Title I, Part A allows us the opportunity to provide essential family engagement across our school at each level like the development and most importantly the actual implementation of the plan so that the school can execute improvement requirements.

The 1116 ESSA as mentioned above is the basis of Title I, Part A's requests for schools to ensure that all parents and families have access to the school. Atlanta Unbound Academy works to ensure that this need is met because we believe in the Tribe understanding that it takes a village to raise a child and believe in family engagement. We will ensure that the needs of the policy are met with fidelity under both AUA's mission as well as the federal law and will include a school-parent compact.



Jointly Developed

During the development of the school during the petition stage families were invited to provide input in the school. Once the school was approved, the school’s leadership team held town hall meetings with the families. Additionally, surveys are sent out at least monthly and the principal holds office hours for families to call the school leader. Meetings, surveys, and office hours are announced via teachers to parents during bi-weekly phone calls that teachers have with parents, in emailed notices, robo-phone calls and robo-text messages.

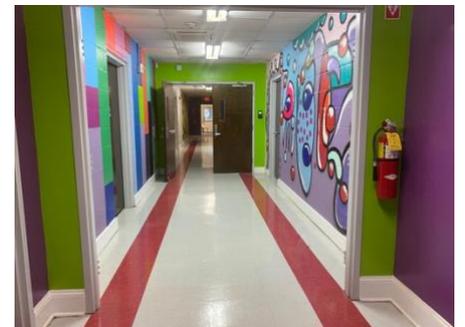


After meetings and data collection, the final version was built-in to the CLIP and submitted to the state of Georgia. Our parents are always able to provide comments, feedback that they feel will enhance the student experience through the principal office hours, via anonymous survey, teacher’s bi-weekly calls on any topic.

AUA will share this policy via website, email, and during our yearly school meeting. For our families where English is a second language the policy will be translated.

Communications

AUA communicates with families on a bi-weekly basis through parent teacher check ins, through office hours with the principal and through monthly emails, social media and robo texts and calls. For families who need services translated, communication is translated in the desired language. All communication is in place to ensure families are made aware of all family events and any academic and social emotional meetings necessary for families so that families can understand how their child is doing and have an opportunity to provide input.



Strengthening Our School

AUA started in person for the first time during 21-22 school year due to COVID. During the few times the school needed to go virtual, the school support families with their learning needs.



To that end, during these times, to ensure support, AUA provided individual school supplies, a Chromebook, a pair of headphones, mouse and curriculum books to every student. Additionally, the school provides breakfast, lunch, snack for any family in need of food support at no cost and any family who has an internet stability challenge, AUA has provided internet hotspots to those families. AUA continues to also receive any notification and resources from the State Department of Education to improve and strengthen family engagement. The school also allowed families to opt out of in person for those who had health concerns. The school looks forward to welcoming 100% of our families back to school this upcoming school year.

Reservation of Funds

AUA plans to withhold 1% of Title 1 funds to support with family engagement requirements as prescribed by federal law. The end of year survey that will go out to families will allow AUA to understand the needs of as to how to better us these funds to fully support the school's needs

Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation

Our family's voice is most important in creating a collaborative school and in ensuring that we collaborate to write our improvement plan. This plan is developed annually and takes feedback into account. 100% of our families are able to receive Title I and therefore are all invited to the two official meetings annually.

Meetings:

AUA holds an annual meeting to share developments, review and provide feedback on the plan. Families will be notified in advance of the meeting via website, email and teacher parent communication. During this meeting we will review the Improvement Plan in the Consolidated LEA for the 22-23 school year.

School-Parent Compacts

Families and parents of AUA will receive a compact which will serve as an agreement between the school and the family. Teachers will sign as well as administrative and families because we believe that it does take a village to support each other and each member the school's community. Revisions are made to these annually and shared with families.

Title 1 Meeting:

Atlanta Unbound Academy hosts a Title 1 meeting at the beginning of the school year to let families know about Title 1 requirements and to inform families about their rights as parents under Title 1

How we Build Capacity

Atlanta Unbound Academy believes in the value of our Community and Family Tribe. We call ourselves a Tribe because of this strong belief in it takes a village.

Capacity of School Employees: As part of an employee's onboarding, AUA has incorporated family engagement into professional development that happens for 4 weeks prior to school opening and then again weekly for 3 hours on Fridays. Employees will be trained on all communication methods prior to the school opening as well as updates as the school year progresses. Additionally, we share parent feedback early and often from families with teachers so that they are aware of the parent experience and can strengthen ways to support 100% of families. To provide access to all of our families, any informational sessions or school related parents programs- we will have reminders that go out in family's home language and in a digestible way. We will also be sure to communicate to families how they should expect to be communicated with (paper, phone, text, in person, virtual). All events will be posted on the school's social media and website, along with the school's calendar that goes home to families at the beginning of each year. Additionally, to remind families about events there will be robo calls/robo texts, emails, and direct teacher reminders.

Capacity of Families: While AUA shares the important information about Title I Program and its requirements, along with state standards and academic standards, AUA also believes it is important to share academic supports, how we teach kids in the school and create a space for parents to learn how their child is learning. These are held as content fun family nights, where families get to see what it is like to spend a day in the life of their child, will learn cool tips and tricks on how to support their child at home. The school's family engagement will be part of Federal, State, and local laws and programs.



Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

In order to ensure that family and parent engagement is high and meaningful, Atlanta Unbound Academy will host an evaluation of the both the effectiveness of the parent and family engagement activities to ensure that family needs are met. This will happen through a quarterly survey that happens each quarter which includes the state of the school. The survey



will be shared with families via email and there will also be a hard copy at the school for families who prefer paper version.

Accessibility

In Section 1116 of the ESSA, AUA will share and collaborate with the Office for Student Support Services to ensure that 100% of families are able to participate for those with limited English proficiency and parents with disabilities and those of migratory children including any information that needs to be provided in a manner that best meets their needs.

Adoption

The district parent and family engagement policy has been developed with both families and children who participating in Title 1, Part A programs as displayed by the collaboration with all stakeholders.

This policy was adopted by AUA in 2020 and the school distributes the policy in a variety of ways of all participating in Title I, Part A members.

Supporting Transitions: Coordinating and Integrating

The school to supports transition of Pre-K to K and 5th to 6th grade by offering “a day in the life of” program prior to the school year. This year, with 8th graders, the school will have a dedicated role supporting the high school transition process. Through collaboration with the former school and families, AUA creates a successful environment for our new kids. Kids have the chance to learn what instruction looks like at AUA by having current AUA students guide conversations with to AUA middle schoolers. Kinder students have the chance to come in and explore their classroom before the first day of school. Teachers meet 1:1 with families to learn their goals etc. Students with disabilities services are transferred to AUA. The school coordinates with federal programs to ensure that services are rendered to increase academic achievement. Families who would like their child evaluated will learn about the process at AUA and will be given all important details to make sure they are successful.

Technical Support

The school and district as an open-door policy.

AUA provides technical assistance on a weekly basis to assist and build the capacity of faculty and community in planning and implementing family and community engagement. The faculty meets every Monday for 6 hours and during this professional development faculty is trained on family engagement. Parents have biweekly calls with teachers, talk with the principal daily as the principal greets every family daily at arrival and dismissal, families engage in quarterly surveys. This information is then used to strengthen the school’s family engagement program.



Jointly Developed

During the development of the school during the petition stage families were invited to provide input in the school, and documents including the Family Engagement Plan, the School-Parent Compact and how our school will spend funds related to our family engagement budget.

Revision date: 7/26/22