DISTRICT-LEVEL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Purpose

Urban Dove Team Charter Schools (UDTCS) recognizes that meaningful family engagement is critical to student success, especially in a transfer high school setting. This policy outlines how we will engage parents and families as active partners in supporting student learning, behavior, and well-being across our school network.

Scope

This policy applies to all Urban Dove Team Charter School campuses and is aligned with the requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), applicable state laws, and the values of the Urban Dove community.

Core Beliefs

We believe:

- All families want the best for their children.
- Families and schools share responsibility for student success.
- Strong, respectful relationships between staff and families foster trust and collaboration.
- Effective family engagement requires ongoing communication, flexibility, and cultural awareness.

Engagement Goals

- Build Relationships
    - Establish strong, trusting relationships with parents/guardians, built on mutual respect.
    - Recognize and value the diverse backgrounds, experiences, and strengths of our families.

- Promote Two-Way Communication
    - Use multiple platforms (calls, texts, in-person meetings, school events, letters, and digital apps) to share information regularly in a clear and accessible way.
    - Provide interpretation and translation services when needed.

- Involve Families in Decision-Making
    - Invite parents to participate in School Leadership Teams and Family Advisory Councils
    - Host regular town halls and feedback sessions to inform school planning and priorities.

- Support Student Success
    - Share academic and behavioral expectations with families and offer tools to support student progress at home.

    - Engage families in goal-setting during advisory conferences, report card nights, and IEP meetings (as applicable).

- Build Family Capacity
    - Provide workshops and resources on topics such as credit accumulation, postsecondary planning, behavior supports, and adolescent development.
    - Partner with community-based organizations to support families' needs outside of school.

- Create Welcoming School Environments
    - Ensure each campus maintains a space and culture that is physically and emotionally welcoming to families.
    - Designate a family liaison or staff point person at each school to coordinate engagement efforts.

Annual Review and Evaluation

UDTCS will:

- Review this policy annually with stakeholders and revise as needed based on family feedback.
- Collect and analyze data on family engagement through surveys, participation rates, and event attendance.
- Share findings with school teams and use them to guide improvement planning.

Roles and Responsibilities

- District Leadership
    - Provide oversight, training, and support to school staff on effective family engagement practices.
    - Ensure alignment of school-level policies with this district policy.

- School Leaders
    - Implement family engagement strategies that reflect this policy.
    - Assign staff responsibilities and resources to carry out the work effectively.

- Teachers and Coaches
    - Maintain regular contact with families about academic progress, behavior, and support strategies.
    - Partner with families in developing plans for student growth.

- Parents and Guardians
    - Communicate openly with school staff.
    - Participate in school events, planning processes, and their child’s educational journey to the best of their ability.