Evergreen Charter Elementary School
605 Peninsula Blvd
Hempstead, NY 11550
P: (516) 292-2060
F: (516) 292-0575

Evergreen Charter Intermediate School
436 Front St
Hempstead, NY 11550
P: (516) 226-8680
F: (516) 226-8658

Evergreen Charter Middle School
120 Greenwich St.
Hempstead, NY 11550
P: (516) 399-1020
F: (516) 292-0575

Evergreen Charter High School
33 Laurel Ave.
Hempstead NY 11550
P: (516)-216-5981
F: (516) 216-1973

Evergreen Charter Office Building
28 Richardson Place
Hempstead NY 11550
P: (516)-226-8680
F: (516) 226-8654

NEW ECS DEPARTMENT PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PROPOSAL

NEW POSITION: DIRECTOR OF PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Introduction

The purpose of this proposal is to develop a department that increases parent engagement starting with k- 6 for phase one, and then 7-12 for phase two. The parent and family engagement department is a centralized department focusing on using technology, innovative, flexible, and practical ways to engage parents and families to bridge home and school learning and connection to increase reading and math scores.

The department would have a director that is employed by the Evergreen Charter School District. The Department could be titled ECS Parent and Family Engagement Department. The Evergreen Charter School District would be at the forefront in developing the best practices for parental engagement.

Evergreen Charter School could be one of the very few if any Districts in Long Island, New York that may lead the way in establishing a parent engagement department that focuses on helping with academic home strategies for parents and family members. This parent and family department's main goals are to establish help and learning venues for parents to engage with their child's learning day by day, week by week, and month by month doable ways.

Parent Involvement VS Parent and Family Engagement

What makes this department unique is that it depicts the difference between parent engagement and parent involvement. Parent involvement are such entities as parent teacher conferences or in building parent workshops that are usually single one shot “deals” and not followed up.

By contrast parent and family engagement are settings that allow parents to understand that a home learning environment is essential for student success and that the student’s education is a partnership between home and school. The family and parent engagement department opens a two-way parent communication, and it is ongoing throughout the academic year. Parent and family engagement helps parents and families understand that learning at home is continuous throughout the child’s scholastic life.

Parent and family engagement considers that it is not only parent learning, but also that other members of the family contribute to student learning at home. For example, older siblings, grandparents, and all other extended family members.

Lastly, the research on the concepts of parent and family engagement accepts the notion that parents for varied reasons cannot attend school functions such as workshops on a regular basis and would appreciate a more flexible way of learning skills to help their children at home.

Finally, according to Kandel-Cisco et al., 2022 parents think they do not have the knowledge and skills to help their children at home due barriers. However, when parents are given educational information and tools, they feel empowered and rise to the occasion (Diaz-Rico, 2014; Kandel-Cisco et al.,2022, Manuel, 2022).

Research and Statement of Need

Research demonstrates repeatedly throughout the years that parental engagement is related to improved reading and math test scores, homework completion, student motivation, improved self-esteem and decrease lateness, and absenteeism (Diaz-Rico, 2014: Manuel, 2022; Strauss et al., 2021). However, engaging Latin parents is challenging and complex (Kandel-Cisco et al., Manuel, 2022). Parent school engagement is particularly low in the immigrant Latin and English Language Learners (ENL) community of students (Kandel-Cisco et al., 2022, Manuel, 2022).

By contrast, research demonstrates constant and continuous two-way communication between home and schools provide advantageous and resourceful ways to help Latin parents participate in their children’s academic lives. Establishing a two-way parent engagement department that is exclusively for parent engagement allows parents and families to receive a plethora of educational “tips” and information all from a centralized department.

When inclusive parent and family engagement programs are established student outcomes improve (Diaz-Rico, 2014.Kandel-Cisco et al., 2022). Student outcomes and

parent engagement are related to improved math, reading and overall student performance (Diaz-Rico, 2014). Also, the New York State Department of Education (NYSED) Developed the "Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework. The Framework stipulates the need and necessity for Districts to create parent communication centralized departments and centers (NYSED. gov. n.d.).

The CRSE Framework parental engagement section included practices and policies requiring all school Districts to rethink innovative and practical ways to inform and educate parents. The CRSE framework outlines how parent communication must be ongoing, and in ways that reach parents in digital ways.

In this proposal I outline best practices to reach parents. For example, I recommend that the parent and family engagement department incorporate online newsletters, grade level learning videos, and communication applications that are not only used to send out information for school opening or closing purposes. The Culturally Responsive - Sustaining Education document states that Districts are obligated to collect bi-directional information to improve parent participation and establish home learning.

In today's world the collaboration efforts between home and school should include technology online digital-based, multi-media, and text-based practices and policies that make it easily accessible for parents to navigate the information while working with their life constructs. Along with the CR-SE framework the Title 1 funding program and Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA) depict the importance of home and school connections.

Title 1 Funds

Title 1 funds allocate specific amounts of funding for parent and family engagement. The federal government mandates districts to create programs and departments that find the practical way to foster home learning and encourage school Districts to provide parents with learning opportunities to use at home. The document GUIDANCE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT: TITLE I, PART A reveals and lists mandated parent engagement procedures.
https://www.nysed.gov/sites/default/files/pfe-guidance.pdf

PARENT ENGAGEMENT DESCRIPTION

How can we describe the ECS Parent and Family Engagement Department?

This parent engagement department is a specialized, and a centralized office that empowers parents and increases student outcomes. Although the New York State

Department of Education (NYSDE) has proposed that school districts fund parent and family engagement departments, Evergreen Charter School would be one of very few Districts to devote a setting to such an important part of the parent and child's educational life. The centralized parent and family engagement department would be supervised by a director. The director would be responsible for the following…

Collaborate and communicate closely with all building administrators to collect data on K-6 (first 2 years)

Work closely with IT to establish Parent University portal or create Google ECS Parent Webpage for digital two-way communication.

Provide and publish inclusive parent engagement information that will increase student outcomes for K-6 reading, writing, and math skills.

Research, create and publish information on community resources to improve student outcomes. For example, the department may distribute parent online Newsletters, K-6 reading, and math strategy videos.

Create, update, and establish online "Parent University" that encompasses math and literacy information tutorials.

Collect parent data. The data will be used to improve parent learning experiences.

Manage and create resources to include middle school and high school parents.

(Year 3-4).

Goals/Objectives

What are the main goals/objectives for ECS Parent and Family Engagement Department

To increase Evergreen Charter School student K-6 student outcome in reading, writing and math scores by helping parents and family engagement help their children at home.

To ensure that Evergreen Charter School ENL students increase and improve listening, speaking, reading, and writing English Language Learning Standardized Test, ELA, and Math NYS standardized test.

To research parent engagement grants to supplement and fund learning materials.

To increase student strategies on listening, speaking, reading, and writing which are the domains of language.

To provide parents with convenient ways to access educational strategies and information that can be used at home for home learning. All information provided in both English and Spanish.

To create a “Parent University” that disperses information by using online newsletters that provide ELA and Math educational tips, online video tutorials that teach reading and math strategies in informal and useful ways.

To allow parent engagement to be a “one stop” information portal. This informational section may cover all topics that are community and need base. For example, this section may provide a list of food banks, available housing, health tips, immigration and know your rights section.

DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

How will the department work to develop the ECS Parent Engagement Department?

Collaborate with school building administration to identify family needs and lack of engagement.

Use technology to bridge home and school connections for example, School Messenger, Remind, Director created YouTube learning videos, reading and math learning videos, Micro learning personalized videos, electronic newsletter, Google Meets, online parent workshops, and social media engagement)

Generate parent surveys to collect qualitative data.

Generate teacher and Administration surveys to collect quantitative and qualitative data to improve parent communication strategies and improve the department’s goals.

Collect all updated New York Department of Education family and parent engagement mandates and research.

Create monthly ECS inclusive digital Parent Newsletters. The newsletter will include “Learning TIPS” and may highlight ECS school events.

Construct online family and parent resources on reading, writing, and math strategies. For example, what are the concepts of print? How to teach sight words within context? How do we get children to blend? What are the questioning strategies necessary for reading comprehension? How to use manipulations to teach number sense. What are math facts and how to teach math facts?

Provide parent and family with Director created YouTube tutorials on K-6 reading, writing and math strategies.

Provide parents and families with nutritional and health information and how both health and learning are essential components of learning cognition.

Implementation Plan

1st to 2nd Academic Year

Collect qualitative and quantitative data for each school on parent engagement and analyze the data.
Collect parent engagement feedback from parents and analyze data.
Implement ECS Remind Two-Way communication app.
Implement parent Newsletters every month.
Implement parent k-6 Reading and Math Parent University.
Collect reading and math NYS pre and post data for K-6
imitate longitudinal study and data analysis.

3rd to 5th Academic Year

Continue to collect data to make improvements on first year initiatives.
Continue with Parent Newsletters
Implement YouTube video.
Implement Parent Micro – Learning videos.
Initiate Micro Learning student videos.
Grant writing to supplement parent engagement resources
Collect reading and math NYS pre and post data for k-6.
Add longitudinal study results.

Department Budget
Director Position: Part-time or Full-time
Director's Salary
Department Materials and Supplies
Parent Incentives/Raffles
Office Space
Laptop/Chromebook/PC

References

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New York State Additional Documentation

GUIDANCE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT:
TITLE I, PART A
https://www.nysed.gov/sites/default/files/pfe-guidance.pdf
CR-SE Document
https://www.nysed.gov/sites/default/files/programs/crs/culturally-responsive-sustaining-education-framework.pdf