



The Laboratory Charter School
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Laboratory Charter School's School-Family Compact (2024-2025)

THE LABORATORY CHARTER SCHOOL and the parents of students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title I agree that this compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improving student academic achievement. The compact also outlines the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the state's academic standards.

Required School-Parent Compact Provisions

School Responsibilities

The Laboratory Charter School is committed to providing a high-quality curriculum and instruction within a supportive and effective learning environment. This commitment enables participating children to achieve their potential and meet Pennsylvania's student academic achievement standards. To ensure this:

- All teachers are required to meet Pennsylvania's statutory and regulatory requirements related to appropriate certification of school personnel.
- Title I support services will include participation in small group direct instruction using both pull-out and push-in models, as well as differentiated classroom instruction.
- Classroom teachers will collaborate with achievement support teachers to determine the best instructional methods, strategies, and skill development for students served in the Title I programs.
- Achievement support teachers and instructional assistants will provide a quality curriculum and instruction in a positive learning environment to help children achieve success.

The Role of Achievement Support Teachers

Achievement support teachers will:

- Respect and acknowledge every child's strengths and differences.
- Believe that every child can learn if given appropriate time, quality instruction, and specific expectations for learning.

- Provide challenging and engaging educational experiences at the child's instructional level to maximize learning.
- Recognize that parents play an important role in their child's education and are vital to their success.

Parent-Teacher Conferences and Reporting

The Laboratory Charter School is dedicated to fostering strong communication and collaboration with parents. To this end, the school will hold parent-teacher conferences scheduled after the first, second and third report card periods.

Student Reports

Parents will receive various reports to stay informed about their child's progress:

- **Report Cards:** Parents will receive a report card once a quarter
- **Quarterly Progress Reports:** For students receiving pull-out instruction, parents will also receive progress reports from the achievement support teacher at the end of each trimester.

Consultation Availability

The Laboratory Charter School staff will be available for consultation with parents as follows:

- **Scheduled Conferences:** Before and after school conferences can be scheduled through the office as needed.
- **Quarterly Conferences:** Conferences will be offered to parents at the end of each quarter.
- **Mid Quarter Interims:** Mid-way through each quarter an interim report will be sent home to inform guardians/parents of students progress.
- **Communication:** Parents may contact teachers, staff, or the principal via telephone, letter, DOJO or email.

Parent Responsibilities

Parents are integral to their children's education and are expected to provide an appropriate learning environment at home. To support their children's learning, parents should:

- Return documents and forms promptly.
- Ensure their child attends school on time, well-fed, and well-rested regularly.
- Monitor school assignments and provide necessary support.
- Create a home atmosphere conducive to learning.
- Ensure that students are aware that electronic devices are not permitted in school
- Show and demonstrate respect for all members of the school community and school property.
- Promote positive use of their child's extracurricular time.

- Stay informed about their child’s education by reviewing all school communications and responding promptly.

Parents can always contact our Parent Coordinator at parents@labcharter.com or 267-817-4720 with any feedback, comments, questions, or concerns. Additionally, parents are encouraged to volunteer, join the parent group (Parents As Partners In Education), or complete the Parent Survey at any time during the year.

Student Commitment

Students are responsible, in part, for their own success and recognize that education is important. Students will:

- Demonstrate a positive attitude toward learning and school.
- Be responsible for completing homework on time that reflects quality and accuracy.
- Follow teacher instructions in a cooperative manner.
- Seek help and assistance when needed.
- Do daily work that is neat and reflects the student’s best effort.
- Be respectful to all school members and to school property

Conclusion

The collaboration between school personnel, parents, and students is vital for providing the best possible education. This partnership ensures that children are supported both at school and at home, fostering an environment where every student can achieve their potential.

2024-2025 Equity Plan

Under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) that accept Title I funding must develop an equity plan. This plan ensures that poor and minority students in Title I schools are not disproportionately taught by ineffective, inexperienced, or out-of-field teachers. The following outlines our LEA’s equity plan, based on data from the 2019-20 school year:

1. Teacher Assignment Analysis

We analyze how teachers are assigned to minority and low-income students using the following data points:

- **School Improvement Status:** TSI (Targeted Support and Improvement) or A-TSI (Additional Targeted Support and Improvement)
- **School Poverty Percentage:** 94%
- **School Minority Percentage:** 97%
- **Percentage of Minority and Low-Income Students Taught by Appropriately Certified Teachers:** 87%
- **Percentage of Minority and Low-Income Students Taught by Out-of-Field Teachers:** 0%

- **Percentage of Minority and Low-Income Students Taught by New Teachers:** 65%
- **Percentage of Minority and Low-Income Students Taught by Experienced Teachers:** 35%
- **Percentage of Minority and Low-Income Students Taught by Ineffective Teachers:** 0%

2. Identifying Possible Inequities

Our analysis has not identified any inequities based on minority or poverty status. Key factors include:

- Small class sizes
- Daily small group instruction for 100% of students
- 100% student access to computers
- Consistent use of academic strategies in both regular and special education settings
- Provision of breakfast and lunch for all students
- Availability of extended day programs for all students
- Staff training in Restorative Practices and Social Emotional Learning
- Use of MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) and Child Find to identify and assist students needing additional support

3. Strategies to Ensure Equitable Teacher Distribution

To ensure low-income and minority students are not disproportionately taught by ineffective, out-of-field, or inexperienced teachers, we implement the following strategies:

- **Benchmarking Assessments:** Using DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) for ELA and Exact Path for Reading, Writing, and Math
- **Pre and Post Testing:** Applied in all classes to assess student progress
- **Data Team Meetings:** Regular meetings to discuss necessary academic adjustments
- **Instructional Strategies:** Use of CUBE, RACE, Pre-teaching, Summarizing, CFU's, tiered instruction, PSSA data, and classroom-based measurements to accommodate diverse learning needs

4. Evaluating Strategy Effectiveness

We use the following methods to determine the effectiveness of our strategies:

- **MTSS and Child Find:** Identifying students needing additional support
- **Benchmark Assessments:** Monitoring student progress towards PDE/SAS benchmarks
- **Professional Development:** 10 days of training during summer and half-day sessions each month to ensure staff support
- **Weekly Data Meetings:** Monitoring and supporting early learning of skills

Importance of a Compliant Parent/Student Handbook

Legal Compliance

Adhering to Pennsylvania School Law ensures that LCS operates fairly, transparently, and accountably. A compliant Parent/Student Handbook demonstrates LCS's commitment to upholding the rights and responsibilities of all stakeholders.

Clarity and Consistency

A compliant handbook provides clear guidelines and policies for parents and students, outlining rights, responsibilities, and expectations to promote fairness and accountability, thereby fostering a harmonious and productive learning environment.

Protection of Student Rights

Incorporating Pennsylvania School Law into the handbook ensures students receive equal educational opportunities and fair treatment, covering areas such as disciplinary procedures, anti-bullying policies, attendance requirements, and special education services.

Parental Engagement and Communication

A compliant handbook encourages parental engagement and establishes open communication lines between parents, students, and the school. It serves as a comprehensive resource that informs parents about their rights, responsibilities, and the school's educational approach, fostering strong partnerships and enhancing the educational experience for students.

Liability and Risk Management

Outlining safety protocols, liability limitations, and procedures for incidents within the school premises or during school-sponsored activities helps manage risks and provides a safe learning environment for all students.

Adaptability and Accountability

Staying compliant with Pennsylvania School Law demonstrates LCS's commitment to adaptability and accountability, showing that the school remains informed about current regulations and aligns its policies and procedures accordingly.

Conclusion

A Parent/Student Handbook compliant with Pennsylvania School Law is crucial for Laboratory Charter School. It ensures legal compliance, promotes clarity and consistency, protects student rights, encourages parental engagement, manages liability, and fosters adaptability and accountability. This commitment ultimately supports the well-being, rights, and educational success of both students and parents at LCS.