

## **American YouthWorks Parent Involvement Policy 2009-2010**

### **Statement of Purpose**

American YouthWorks is committed to the goal of providing a quality education for every student that enrolls in the district. To this end, the district wants to work collaboratively with parents in the community. Everyone gains when the school and home work together to promote high achievement for all student. Neither the home nor the school can do the job alone. Parents play an extremely important role as the student's first teachers. Their support for their student and for the school is critical to their student's success at every step along the way.

Grade level for students of American YouthWorks will be distributed to all parents in the district in the form of report cards, with the expectation that all students will work toward these goals. We recognize that some students may need the extra assistance available through the Title I Programs, as well as other programs to reach these goals. American YouthWorks intends to include parents in all aspects of the district's Title I Program. The goal is a school-home partnership that will help all students in the district to succeed.

### **Annual Meetings For Title I Parents**

American YouthWorks hosts two meeting each year (one in the fall and the other in the spring). At these annual meetings parents will be given information about the new Title I guidelines and how they differ from the previous year. They will be given copies of the district's current Parental Involvement Policy, and will be offered a chance to become involved in revision and updating the Policy as needed.

### **School-Parent Compact**

According to Title I regulations, each school must share responsibility with parents for high student performance by developing a school-parent-student compact jointly with the parents of student participating in the program. These compacts must outline how parents, staff, and students will share responsibility for promoting high student achievement.

Parents will receive the compact from their student's school with a list of responsibilities that teachers, parents, and students will each have for helping students achieve their goals.

Although signatures are not required, parents are urged to discuss the compact with their student.

## **Types of Parental Involvement**

There are many ways in which parents can become involved with their student's education. American YouthWorks Charter School values both the at-home contributions and those that take place at school and in the community. Parents are encouraged to assist with homework at home, talk with students at family meals, volunteer at school and serve on advisory committees. These types of parental involvement are needed help all our students to succeed.

## **Matching Programs to the Needs of the Community**

Each year, the school district will assess the needs of parents and student in the community, through a variety of measures - including questionnaires sent home to parents - so that the Title I program will be tailored to meeting those needs.

## **Staff/Parent Communication**

Communication with parents will include notes at the bottom of student's progress reports, report cards, telephone calls, and meeting notification. Parents are encouraged to take the initiative in calling their student's teacher or academic coach when they are concerned about a problem. Staff receives training on how to improve home-school communication; parents can be invited to participate in these training sessions.

## **Evaluation**

There will be an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Title I parental involvement program, and parents will be asked for their input. The evaluation will include an assessment of how much parental involvement has increased and what barriers to parental participation still need to be overcome. The school district will revise its Parental Involvement policy based on annual reviews.

This commitment to family involvement has been approved by the American YouthWorks Board. The policy will be coordinated by Title I supervisory staff, parents, teachers, and administration.