Inwood Academy For Leadership

Community-Focused Leadership.
Character Development.
College Preparedness.

Family and Community Engagement Plan 2026-2027

Draft- October 2026

At Inwood Academy, families are partners, not guests. You know your child best. We know a lot about how children learn. When we put the two together, children grow, and so do the leaders around them.

This plan was built from what **82 IAL families** told us in our Title I survey, and it is reviewed every year with the Family Council. It will keep changing as we keep listening.

When your child leaves IAL, they will carry our three Core Components: **College Preparedness, Community-Focused Leadership, and Character Development.** These are our priorities as we work together as agents of change.

What You Told Us

Here is what families asked for, in order of interest:

Topic	What families asked for
1. Technology	Screen time, phones, gaming and social media (Common Sense Media)
2. Academics at Home	• Reading at home • Study skills • Homework routines • Organization (executive function) • IXL Building Math Skills • Supporting English Language Learners
3. Grading & Testing	Graduation requirements & PowerSchool • Preparing for Regents • Understanding tests and scores • Understanding IEPs and 504s
4. Family Well-Being	Leader in Me • Mental health • Ages & Stages • Financial literacy

> **Who answered:** 20 Elementary • 19 Middle School • 41 High School • 2 multiple sites.
>
> Half of our answers came from high school families. That is why this plan is organized by school level, so elementary and middle school needs are not drowned out. We will keep asking at every workshop, especially families who are new to IAL.

Our Three Goals This Year

Goal	What it means for your family
1. 7 Habits at Home: Read. Grow. Unplug. (Marzano HRS 1.2)	**By June 2027, families who attend IAL's 7 Habits workshops will demonstrate a 20-percentage-point increase from their pre-workshop baseline in both the percentage who can accurately name two habits and explain their purpose and the percentage who report using at least two habits at home weekly.** **Eighteen bilingual sessions (three per building each semester) that bring Leader in Me habits home through reading routines and healthy screen habits.**
2. Your Voice, Our Action (Marzano HRS 1.6)	**By June 2027, IAL will hold four Title I feedback sessions and gather input from at least 40 unduplicated families. Within 10 school days of each session, IAL will publish and distribute a bilingual "You Said / We Did" report to all families and relevant stakeholders through established communication channels. Each report will summarize feedback, identify actionable changes.** **Four Title I family consultation sessions, rotating across ES, MS and HS, plus online options in English and Spanish.** **Our promise: input from 40+ families, and a bilingual "You Said / We Did" shared within 10 school days of each session.**
3. Families Lead Families (Marzano HRS 1.6)	**By June 2027, IAL will train 12 family leaders in Leader in Me, four per site, with each leader completing the designated training and leading or co-leading at least one family engagement activity at their site.** **Twelve trained family leaders, four per building. Six become certified 7 Habits family facilitators.** **By June: family leaders co-design or co-lead at least 10% of FACE workshops and help facilitate at the FACE Conference.**

BELONG Priority 1: IAL Families Are Informed

Knowledge is power. You deserve to know where your child stands and what to do next.

- **PowerSchool (all grades):** grades, attendance, assignments and teacher contact. ClassDojo for Elementary and Middle School.

- **Calls, texts and emails** in English and Spanish through SchoolMessenger, plus recorded sessions on the IAL YouTube channel and family WhatsApp groups.
- **Understanding your child's results:** we will show you how to read report cards, PowerSchool, iReady, state test scores and Regents scores, and what questions to ask.
- **Leader in Me:** your child learns the 7 Habits at school. We help you use the same language at home.
- **A bilingual FACE team** offers one-on-one support all year, in person, by phone or by message.

BELONG Priority 2: IAL Families Are Engaged

If you have a child at IAL, you are already a member of the Family Council. It meets monthly, and families choose the themes.

- **Annual Title I Meeting:** what Title I is, how funds support learning, and your rights as a family.
- **Four consultation sessions** (one per quarter, rotating ES/MS/HS) where families shape decisions. Can't come? Use the online form.
- **"You Said / We Did":** after every session, we publish what we heard and what we changed, in English and Spanish.
- **This plan and the School-Parent Compact** are reviewed with families every year.

Grow Priority 3: IAL Families Are Equipped

You are not alone. Every FACE workshop is short, hands-on and in English and Spanish, and you leave with something to try that night.

Connect	Learn	Practice	Take Home	Tell Us
Meet other families (5 min)	One clear strategy (15 min)	Try it together, with your child when possible (20 min)	A tool or card to use tonight (5 min)	2-minute form: what helped, what's next (5 min)

7 Habits at Home: Read. Grow. Unplug. (Goal 1)

A three-part series offered at every building. Round 1 runs in the winter; Round 2 runs in the spring, co-led by family leaders.

Session & Habit	Elementary	Middle School	High School
Who Gets the First Hour? Be Proactive • Put First Things First	Bedtime and read-aloud routines	Homework before games	Phones, sleep and study time
The Phone Is Not the Boss Begin with the End in Mind • Think Win-Win	STOP → SWITCH → START for screen transitions	Gaming, YouTube and the endless scroll	Social media and a family media agreement
My Child Says Reading Is Boring Sharpen the Saw	Picking books together; reading in any language	Interest → Choice → Connection → Habit	Reading for life: articles, careers, college

Tools from Common Sense Media. Families who are more comfortable in Spanish or another language are encouraged to read with children in that language.

Learning at Home: Workshops by School Level

Season	Elementary	Middle School	High School
Fall	Annual Title I Meeting • Student & Family Handbook	Annual Title I Meeting • Student & Family Handbook • Understanding iReady Reports	Graduation Requirements & PowerSchool: Is My Child on Track? • FAFSA
Winter	Literacy Night (word games, EN/ES) • Math Games at Home	Getting Organized at Home (executive function) • IXL & PowerSchool Hands-On	Preparing for Regents • Study Skills That Work
Spring	Understanding iReady & Report Cards • Homework Routines	Study Skills • Understanding Test Scores	Reading for Understanding • Financial Literacy
Late Spring	Summer Reading • Ages and Stages	Moving Up to High School • Ages and Stages	June Regents Prep • Next Steps: College & Career

For all families, all year: Understanding IEPs & 504s • Supporting English Language Learners • Mental Health (with Marble Health) • Positive Discipline • Financial Literacy. Offered across buildings, in person and recorded.

Lead Priority 4: IAL Families Are Empowered

Families are leaders, too. Join a team based on your interests. Each team picks its own meeting time, connects on WhatsApp, and shares updates at Family Council.

Leadership Team	What families do
Literacy (Readers Are Leaders)	Lead the Read. Grow. Unplug. campaign, library cards for every student, vocabulary challenges and Spelling Bees.
College & Career Readiness	Learn and share about credits, graduation plans, FAFSA, college visits and the transition to college.
Together We Can	Support families of students with IEPs and 504s, with Include NYC, Parent to Parent of NYS and the Child Mind Institute.
Advocacy	Learn how to make your voice heard, including Advocacy Day in Albany (expenses paid).
Community Service	Walk for a Cause, Hike the Heights, and winter food drives.
Small Business	Share resources and mentor students and alumni interested in entrepreneurship.

Family Leader Bench: twelve families (four per building) receive leadership training this year and co-lead workshops with FACE. Ask us how to join.

Families who complete a workshop series earn a certificate and are entered into our annual raffle (prizes provided by World Vision). Title I funds support only leadership teams with a direct impact on academic learning.

Making It Easy to Join

- Morning and evening options, at each building, with recordings on YouTube.
- Spanish at every event; other languages on request.
- Children welcome; snacks and childcare whenever possible.
- Personal invitations and follow-up for new families and families in temporary housing.
- Can't come? Every session has a take-home version and a short form to share your voice.

Our Title I Commitments to You

- **Developed with you:** This plan is developed and agreed on with families, reviewed each year with the Title I Parent Advisory Council (PAC), and shared in English and Spanish, on our website, and in other formats on request.
- **An annual Title I Meeting:** We hold an Annual Title I Conference and meetings at flexible times.

- **A voice in the program:** families help plan, review and improve our Title I program and schoolwide plan, including how family engagement funds are spent.
- **Clear information:** We offer timely updates on curriculum, assessments, the levels students are expected to reach, and your child's individual state test results.
- **We respond:** Families can request meetings to share suggestions, and we answer through "You Said / We Did."
- **Building family capacity** in literacy, technology, and understanding standards, tests and progress.
- **Staff learning from families:** each semester, FACE shares what families tell us with staff and offers family-partnership sessions co-presented by family leaders.
- **Connected supports:** family engagement is coordinated with our services for English Language Learners, students with disabilities and students in temporary housing, and with community partners.
- **School-Parent Compact:** our shared agreement on how school, families and students support learning, reviewed at conferences.
- **Your right to know:** you may ask about the professional qualifications of your child's teachers and paraprofessionals. We will notify you if your child is taught for four or more weeks in a row by a teacher who does not meet state certification requirements.
- **Annual evaluation with families:** together we review what worked and what kept families from taking part, including language, disability, literacy and economic barriers, and use the results to improve this plan.

How We Will Know It's Working

We will track	Target by June 2027
Families who can name and use two 7 Habits at home	**80% (October baseline vs. spring survey)**
Participating families more confident supporting reading	**80%**
Different families giving input through consultations and forms	**40+, with all three buildings represented**
"You Said / We Did" summaries published on time	**4 of 4, within 10 school days**
Trained family leaders	**12 (four per building); 6 certified facilitators**
Workshops co-designed or co-led by families for the FACE Title I Conference	**At least 10%**

> Developed jointly and agreed on with IAL families at the Family Council / Title I parent advisory meeting on *October ___,* 2026. In effect for the 2026–2027 school year and reviewed with families each spring.