Inwood Academy For Leadership

Community-Focused Leadership.
Character Development.
College Preparedness.

School Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2026-2027

October 2026
Draft for Family Review and Joint Development

Inwood Academy for Leadership (IAL) receives Title I, Part A funds in support of student academic growth. IAL will jointly develop, agree on, and distribute a written Parent and Family Engagement Policy with families of participating children, describing how the school will carry out the applicable requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Section 1116.

IAL will provide this policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent possible, in a language families can understand. The policy will be made available to the local community and reviewed periodically to respond to families' needs. It establishes IAL's expectations for family engagement and describes how families will participate in school activities and decisions.

IAL understands that parent and family engagement means the participation of parents and families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, ensuring:

- Parents and families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- Parents and families are actively involved in their child's education at school
- Parents and families are included, as appropriate, in school decision-making and on advisory committees to fully partner in the education of their child

IAL agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by ESSA Section 1116:

ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING
IAL will hold an annual Title I meeting at a convenient time and invite families of participating children to learn about the Title I program, family rights and responsibilities, this Parent and Family Engagement Policy, the Family Engagement Plan, and the School-Parent Compact. The meeting will provide families an opportunity to ask questions and contribute to the planning and joint development of these documents. The date, time, format, language access, and outreach plan for the 2026–2027 annual meeting will be communicated to families through established

school channels. Our first in person Annual Meeting was held on August 20th as a FACE Title I conference

The annual meeting was held in person on **August 20th as a FACE Title I conference** with the goal is for parents to be actively involved in the planning and joint development of these policies. Families were informed about the requirements of Title I and parents' rights to be involved. IAL offered two additional virtual meetings in English and in Spanish to encourage parents to be part of the Title I Parent Advisory Council and to share the results of the Parents Interest and Needs Assessment Survey on the following dates:

- September 9, 2026 (Eng/Spa)
- September 16, 2026 (Eng/Spa)

FLEXIBLE NUMBER OF MEETINGS

IAL will offer flexible opportunities for family participation, including morning and/or evening options and online participation where feasible. Meetings and feedback opportunities will be offered in English and Spanish. IAL will make reasonable efforts to address participation barriers, including language access and accessibility needs. Where permitted and appropriate, Title I funds may support allowable family-engagement costs such as transportation, childcare, or home visits. Families unable to attend will be offered a way to provide feedback and, as appropriate, receive meeting summaries in English and Spanish; summaries will also be made available through school communication channels.

TITLE I FAMILY CONSULTATION AND "YOU SAID/WE DID COMMITMENT

During the 2026–2027 school year, IAL will hold four Title I family consultation and feedback sessions. Families voted on November 6, 2026, to hold these meetings online for the most family participation in English and Spanish. These sessions will invite families to provide input on Title I programming, the schoolwide program plan, the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Plan, the School-Parent Compact, and other relevant school-improvement priorities.

By June 2027, IAL's goal is to gather input from at least 40 unduplicated families across the four sessions. IAL will maintain a participation log that identifies unique family participation without unnecessarily collecting or publicly reporting sensitive personal information. Attendance at multiple sessions by the same family will count once toward the 40-family unduplicated goal.

Within 10 school days after each session, IAL will publish and distribute a bilingual English/Spanish 'You Said / We Did' report to all families and relevant stakeholders through established communication channels. Each report will summarize the feedback received, identify actionable changes or next steps, and state when an item cannot be implemented immediately, including the reason and any planned follow-up. When feedback does not result in a change, IAL will explain the response rather than implying that every suggestion can be adopted.

IAL will review participation and feedback after each session, track follow-up actions and responsible staff, and use the reports and family input to inform the annual review of this policy and related Title I planning. Proposed dates below are planning dates and should be confirmed with school leadership before publication.

PROPOSED SESSION	FORMAT	PROPOSED REPORT DEADLINE
October 19,2026	Cross-school/virtual access Eng/Spanish	November 2, 2026
November 6, 2026	**Virtual 6PM** English and Spanish	December 7, 2026
January 8, 2027	**Virtual 6PM** English and Spanish	January 27, 2027
February 22, 2027	**Virtual 6PM** English and Spanish	March 15, 2027
April 19, 2027	**Virtual 6PM** English and Spanish	May 7, 2027

WORK TOGETHER - POLICY AND SCHOOLWIDE PROGRAM REVIEW

IAL will involve families in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I, Part A programs, including the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the schoolwide program plan, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way. At the beginning of the school year, families and stakeholders will receive information about the Family Engagement Plan and their right to contribute through meetings, surveys, questionnaires, and other feedback opportunities. If families have concerns that the schoolwide program plan or this policy is unsatisfactory, they may submit comments to the school for consideration and follow-up.

COMMUNICATION

IAL will provide families information about Title I programs, curriculum, academic assessments, state academic standards, and opportunities to participate in decisions relating to their children's education. Relevant information will be provided in English and Spanish and, to the extent possible, in a language families can understand. This policy will be distributed at the beginning of the school year, made available on the school website, and discussed with families during appropriate school meetings, including parent-teacher conferences. IAL will assess the policy annually using participation information, volunteer involvement, questionnaires, surveys, feedback sessions, and the 'You Said / We Did' reports.

DISSENTION/COMMENTS PROCESS

Families may submit comments or concerns about the schoolwide program plan or Parent and Family Engagement Policy to IAL for review. **Any comments or concerns can be emailed to Inwood Academy CEO Christina Reyes at Christina.Reyes@ialcs.org**

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

IAL will collaborate with parents of participating children to develop a school-parent compact that outlines shared responsibilities in improving student academic achievement. IAL will hold an annual parent meeting to review and discuss any necessary changes to this compact.

EMPOWER PARENTS

Inwood Academy for Leadership will increase parents' capacity for partnership and involvement by:

1. Providing training to help parents support their children in areas such as:
    - New York State's academic content standards,
    - New York State's student academic achievement standards,
    - New York State and local academic assessments (including alternate assessments),
    - the requirements of Title I, Part A,
    - how to monitor student progress, and
    - how to work with educators to improve the achievement of students.

2. Educating teachers, specialized instructional staff, principals, and other school leaders on the value and utility of parent contributions, teaching all staff how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners toward student growth.

3. Integrating parent programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, and conducting other activities that encourage and allow parents to fully participate in the education of their children.

4. Offering workshops, as needed, to support English learners, students with IEPs, general education students, and transitions between middle school, high school, college, and career pathways.

5. Providing support, as appropriate, for families using school information and communication systems and online resources that support student learning.

ACCESSIBILITY

IAL will, to the extent possible, provide full opportunities for family participation, including for families with limited English proficiency, disabilities, and other participation barriers. School reports and required information will be provided in a format and language families can understand to the extent possible. IAL will use surveys and other feedback methods to identify family needs and barriers, and will publicize meetings and training through established channels such as newsletters, school signage, social media, the school website, ClassDojo, WhatsApp, and other channels currently used by the school.

ANNUAL REVIEW AND FAMILY AGREEMENT

IAL will invite families to review this policy annually and use family input to plan improvements. The final 2026–2027 policy should be reviewed jointly with families and relevant school stakeholders, updated based on their input, approved through IAL's applicable process, and distributed in English and Spanish.

IAL website: https://inwoodacademy.org/families/

Draft status