



NEWWESTCharter

A new direction in public education

Home School Agreement

Central Tenets of New West Charter

Parental Involvement in Their Child's Education - New West's philosophy is that students can best reach their full potential when there is a high level of involvement by their parents in their education and that their parents show them the importance of responsibility, respect, and cooperation. Moreover, parent, student, teacher, administrator, and community involvement is important to the success of the Charter School and to the satisfaction of all parties. Accordingly, part of the school's educational plan is an agreement between parents and the school known as the "Home-School Agreement." The intent of this agreement is to encourage parental, student, and staff involvement and cooperation to ensure the success of the school's education program, to empower everyone with respect to their children's education, and to strengthen the partnership among parents, students, and educators.

Shared Expectations -Parents send their children to New West because they have high expectations of the school and the benefits their children will receive from it. In turn, the school has high expectations that parents will contribute to the team-effort needed to fulfill the school's mission. Excellence at New West cannot be accomplished or maintained without the active participation of the parents of enrolled students.

Parent Diversity -Diversity among parents is a strength that improves the educational program for all. Parents have different philosophies and approaches to their involvement in their children's education. Likewise, parents may contribute in many different ways to the collective responsibility of running a charter school and making its educational program a success. Recognizing that each parent, like each child, is unique in terms of background, experience, and ability, New West asks parents to contribute to the school's success by volunteering their skills, time, and resources, to the extent that they are able, above the minimum expectations of the Home-School Agreement.

Role of Parents - The success of New West is dependent on local school control through shared governance between the educators and parents who have a vested interest in the school. A meaningful partnership involves the Principal/Executive Director and teachers being responsive to the concerns of parents. In turn, parents have a responsibility to respect the professional experience and expertise of the educators. While parents will be involved at all levels of decision-making at New West, their primary role will be to assist, enhance, facilitate, and extend the ability of the educational staff to conduct the school's educational activities. Such parental involvement has the significant advantage of relieving educators from some aspects of operating the school so they can devote their time, energy, and expertise to classroom teaching, curriculum and professional development.



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Management, Oversight, Exceptions, and Non-Compliance - Parents and students are highly encouraged to fulfill their responsibilities to the school as described under the “Terms of the Home-School Agreement.” The Principal/Executive Director, in consultation with the Governance Council, is responsible for administering and enforcing the Home-School Agreement, counseling parents who may be substantially non-compliant, and considering exceptions in the form of reduced expectations for parents whose particular circumstances may include transportation difficulties, single-parent households, financial hardship, physical disability, employment, or other special situations. Policies regarding non-compliance with and exceptions to the Home-School Agreement shall be applied to all parents in an equal and consistent manner that is nondiscriminatory, provides due process protections, and preserves the privacy and confidentiality rights of students and parents. Disputes involving the Home-School Agreement shall be resolved through the school’s dispute resolution process.

Affirmations - The Home-School Agreement must be read in its entirety by the parent(s)/guardian(s) as well as their child as an acknowledgement of policies and procedures at New West.

Terms of the Home-School Agreement

Parents must agree and sign the Home-School Agreement each year as an acknowledgement of their agreement to New West's policies and procedures. The Home-School Agreement has the following expectations of parents/guardians:

- We recommend 16 hours/year/per family during school hours, weekends, or evenings to participate in a school project, event, or classroom activity in addition to the other expectations of the Home-School Agreement.
- Each family should oversee their child's community service project, insuring his/her completion of at least six (6) hours of community service for grades 6-8th and at least ten (10) hours for 9-12th per year, per child, as outlined in the New West Charter School Community Service program (see attached).
- Be familiar with the Charter to understand the educational plan of the school, the school's operation, and the roles, rights, and responsibilities of parents and their children.
- Participate in understanding and abide by the TMMP/Student Transportation & Parking Policy (see attached).
- Participate in an annual orientation launch meeting to learn about charter schools, the school's educational program, the Home-School Agreement, and the ways in which parents can contribute to the success of both their child and the school.
- Have the opportunity to participate in the election of parent representatives to the Governance Council.
- Complete and return all required forms, questionnaires, and other requests for information from New West.
- Support the completion of homework and class projects by their child.
- Assure that each child arrives at school on time, dressed appropriately, and ready to learn.
- Support and reinforce the Student Conduct Code and the Student Uniform Policy.
- Attend scheduled parent-teacher conferences, back-to-school night, open houses, and other school-wide events. each year for each child.
- Participate as a family, where possible, in extracurricular school events such as book fairs, plays, talent shows, festivals, and fund-raising activities.
- Exercise respect in all forms of communication with all New West community members including teachers, administrators, staff, and other parents. Please note that all communication directly with New West staff and administration must be conducted on a specific needs basis and follow the communication protocols established in the New West Student/Parent Handbook.
- Use the school's dispute resolution process to settle complaints, conflicts, and disputes that may involve the school and/or its various stakeholders, including administrators, teachers, staff, students, and other parents.
- Reimburse the school for school property that is lost or damaged by your child.
- Ensure that your child complies with the school-wide "no littering" policy, which applies to the school grounds and the residential neighborhood surrounding the school.