



DEMOCRACY PREP CHARTER MIDDLE

Work Hard. Go to College. Change the World!

DEMOCRACY PREP CHARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Democracy Prep Charter Middle School and the parents of the students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (participating children), agree that this compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the State's high standards.

This School-Parent Compact is updated annually. This version is in effect during the 2016-17 school year.

School Responsibilities

Democracy Prep Charter Middle School **will**:

1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet the State's student academic achievement standards as follows:

Democracy Prep Charter Middle School is an academically rigorous, college preparatory school. Our instructional program is based on our mission of having all students achieve college-preparatory academic success and informed civic involvement, and our curriculum is based on an accelerated introduction to the Common Core Learning Standards. Students are challenged to do their best academically regardless of language proficiency, special education status, or the academic level at which they enter the school. Students attend school Monday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., until at least 1:00 p.m. on Fridays, and on one Saturday each month. The school year includes approximately 195 days of instruction, and students in need of additional individual support or required remediation receive after-dismissal tutoring and attend school on additional Saturdays and during some vacations. Frequent evaluations ensure that teachers and families know exactly where each student stands in relation to our rigorous standards and what each student needs to do to make progress. Academic data is tracked throughout the year to ensure students are maintaining growth. Democracy Prep uses six-week interim assessment cycles to assess student mastery of standards-based knowledge and skills.

Democracy Prep is founded on the belief that a safe, structured, and supportive school community is essential to ensure dramatic academic gains for all students. We focus relentlessly on appropriate consequences for small issues in order to ensure that more significant negative behaviors are unlikely to occur. School culture is based on the "DREAM Values" according to which all staff and students live: Discipline, Respect, Enthusiasm, Accountability, and Maturity. Students earn or forfeit "DREAM Dollars" based on their adherence to these values. Accumulated DREAM Dollars may be linked to college scholarship accounts, and students may "purchase" privileges and benefits such as end-of-trimester trips and end-of-year adventures including Civic and College Expeditions with their

accrued DREAM Dollars.

2. Hold parent-teacher conferences during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement. Specifically, those conferences will be held:

All parents/guardians are required to attend the scheduled Parent Orientations held each August. These orientations are held at different times of the day during summer school and are intended to provide parents/guardians with an overview of the school's policies. Parents and students are invited to attend conferences — held at the end of each marking period — to meet with teachers to go over report card data. Additionally, teachers may request family conferences with families of students who are in need of academic and behavioral support. Parents are encouraged to schedule appointments with any member of the Democracy Prep DREAM Team. Such meetings will be scheduled at the DREAM Team member's earliest possible convenience. In addition to attending all required meetings regarding the academic and behavioral progress of their children, parents/guardians are also encouraged to attend all school-wide social and cultural events. Democracy Prep is committed to the establishment of the school as an institution of learning that welcomes and supports its parents/guardians and other members of the community.

3. Provide parents with frequent reports on their children's progress. Specifically, the school will provide reports as follows:

Parents receive regular progress reports that include academic and behavioral updates. Democracy Prep students receive weekly academic progress reports and a detailed report card at the close of each marking period. Students also receive a weekly "paycheck" with amounts deducted for immature, undisciplined, or disrespectful behaviors. These reports are sent home to parents each Thursday, and students both receive recognition for amassing the most "currency" and become eligible to redeem their paychecks for prizes at bimonthly auctions.

4. Provide parents reasonable access to staff. Specifically, staff will be available for consultation with parents as follows:

One of the characteristics that sets Democracy Prep apart is increased communication between students, teachers and families. At Democracy Prep, students have cell phone access to their teachers seven days a week and should call with questions about class. With this cell phone help, there is no excuse for a Democracy Prep student to not complete his or her homework. A list of teachers' phone numbers is distributed during summer school and should be kept in a plastic sleeve behind the first tab of each student's Homework Binder. Students also review proper phone etiquette during summer school and practice placing calls to teachers to receive assistance with their homework.

Students may call teachers during the following times:

Monday – Thursday	until 9:00 pm
Friday	until 6:00 pm
Saturday	2:00 – 6:00 pm
Sunday	(leave message)

These hours are designed to keep the cell phones from being a hindrance to those who carry them. Teachers are expected to answer their phones during these hours. Parents and students may also communicate with teachers by contacting them at their Democracy Prep email accounts and by scheduling in-person conferences at the DREAM Team member's earliest convenience.

5. Provide parents opportunities to participate in their child's class and to observe classroom activities.

Democracy Prep maintains an open door policy with our parents and families, provided they are not a distraction to the learning environment. Family members who are over 18 are welcome to come and observe classes and school operation on non-testing days. Parents and family members are also welcome to request meetings with any member of the DREAM Team. Meetings will be scheduled at the DREAM Team member's earliest possible convenience.

6. Provide meaningful opportunities for parent involvement in Title I Activities. Democracy Prep Charter Middle School believes that the involvement of parents in the design and implementation of the Title I program will increase the effectiveness of the program and contribute significantly to the success of the children. The school will strive to involve parents in activities throughout the school year. Specifically, the school will:

- Provide opportunities to for parents to jointly develop Democracy Prep Charter Middle School's local plan and participate in the process of the school's review;
- Provide coordination, technical assistance and other support from various central office departments necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities that are designed to improve student academic achievement and school performance;
- Build the school's and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement;
- Involve parents in the school's Title I, Part A activities; and
- Conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent Compact as it relates to improving the academic quality of the school, revising the Compact, if necessary. The evaluation will:
 - Identify barriers to greater participation by parents in parent involvement activities, with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background; and
 - Inform design strategies for more effective parent involvement.

Democracy Prep is a partnership made up of the school leadership, teachers, scholars, and families. Although the job of making decisions about school policy belongs to the school leaders, Assistant Superintendents, and the CEO, family involvement is not only welcome but also absolutely necessary for the success of the school. The Family Leadership Council (FLC) is the family involvement organization at each Democracy Prep school. The mission of the Family Leadership Council is to promote family involvement, to advocate politically for our community, and to support the school, our scholars, and their families. The FLC organizes volunteer opportunities and creates ways to support our scholars in their achievements. There are regular meetings of the Family Leadership Council; all families are welcome and encouraged to get involved. Additionally, we rely

on our families, under the leadership of the FLC, to support our efforts for civic engagement through:

- Registering to Vote (if eligible)
- Assisting with Voter Registration Drives
- Joining scholars and the DREAM Team for Primary and Election Day Activities

Parent Responsibilities

We, as parents, will support our children's learning in the following ways:

- Monitoring attendance.
- Ensuring that homework is completed.
- Monitoring the amount of television children watch.
- Participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to my child's education.
- Promoting positive use of my child's extracurricular time.
- Staying informed about my child's education and communicating with the school by promptly reading all notices from the school or the school district either received by my child or by mail and responding, as appropriate.
- Participating, when possible, in the school's Title I planning, programming, and evaluation.

Student Responsibilities

We, as students, will share the responsibility to improve our academic achievement and achieve the state's high standards. Specifically, we will:

- Do my homework every day and ask for help when we need it.
- Read at least 30 minutes every day outside of school time.
- Give my parents or the adult who is responsible for my welfare all notices and information received by me from my school every day.