THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - UNIVERSITY CHARTER SCHOOL

Pathfinder Camp Campus

2026-2027 Campus Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Campus	Pathfinder Camp 227806-009
Location	Driftwood, Texas
School Year	2026-2027
Final approval/adoption	August 21, 2026

Purpose and Campus Context

Pathfinder Camp is a UT Charter School campus located at the Burke Center for Youth in Driftwood. The campus serves students in a residential setting and recognizes that meaningful engagement may involve parents, guardians, foster parents, caseworkers, education decision-makers, residential program staff, and other adults legally authorized to support a student. Throughout this policy, “parents and families” includes these authorized individuals as applicable, while preserving each student’s confidentiality and educational rights.

This policy explains how Pathfinder Camp will provide information about its Title I, Part A program; involve families in planning, reviewing, and improving the schoolwide program and parent and family engagement activities; share information about curriculum, assessments, and achievement expectations; and build effective partnerships that support student learning, successful transitions, and postsecondary readiness.

1. Information About the Title I, Part A Program

Pathfinder Camp operates a Title I, Part A schoolwide program. Title I resources are coordinated with other federal, state, local, and campus resources to improve educational opportunities for all students, especially students who need additional academic support. The campus uses needs-assessment data, student progress information, family and stakeholder input, and program-evaluation results to plan and improve services.

Parents’ Right to Know

Parents and other authorized education decision-makers may request information concerning the professional qualifications of a student’s classroom teachers and instructional paraprofessionals, as applicable under federal law. They may also receive information about the student’s achievement and growth on applicable state and local assessments. Requests may be directed to the campus principal or the UT Charter School Title I Coordinator using the contact information in Section 12.

2. Parent and Family Input on Title I Parent and Family Engagement Funds

When Pathfinder Camp receives or benefits from Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement, parents and families will be provided a meaningful opportunity to recommend how those funds should be used. Input may be provided during the Annual Title I Meeting, campus planning meetings, surveys, individual conferences, telephone or virtual meetings, or written/electronic feedback. The campus will document recommendations and how they were considered in final funding and program decisions.

The Title I, Part A program and related parent and family engagement activities and documentation are subject to applicable federal and state requirements and may be reviewed by the Texas Education Agency as part of program monitoring.

3. Review of the Schoolwide Program and Comments

Parents and families may review and comment on the campus Title I schoolwide program, the Campus Improvement Plan, and this policy. If the Campus Improvement Plan is not satisfactory to participating families, the campus will submit parent comments with the plan when required. Families may contact the campus principal or Title I Coordinator to request access, ask questions, or submit comments.

4. Family Activities, Capacity Building, and Meetings

Pathfinder Camp will provide activities designed to help families and authorized education decision-makers understand academic expectations, support student progress, participate in transitions, and communicate effectively with the school. Because students reside at a partner facility and may be highly mobile, activities may be offered in person, by telephone, virtually, through recorded or written resources, or in coordination with the residential program.

Activity/Meeting	Purpose	Date and Time	Access/Location
Policy Evaluation	Gather input on barriers, needs, communication, accessibility, and effective engagement strategies	Monday, August 21, 2026, 5:00 p.m.	Pathfinder Camp Campus, Zoom, telephone, and written/electronic feedback
Annual Title I Meeting	Title I program, rights, schoolwide plan, funding, policy, compact, curriculum and assessments	Thursday, September 17, 2026, 12:00–1:00 p.m. and Tuesday, September 24, 2026, 5:30–6:30 p.m.	Pathfinder Camp Campus, with Zoom and telephone participation
Family or Stakeholder Academic Information Session	Curriculum, MyPath learning targets, STAAR/EOC, TELPAS when applicable, progress monitoring, graduation planning	Thursday, January 21, 2027, 5:00–6:00 p.m.	Pathfinder Camp Campus, Zoom, or telephone
Campus Improvement and PFE Planning/Review Meeting	Review needs, CIP, PFE program, policy, compact, and funding recommendations	Thursday, March 4, 2027, 12:00–1:00 p.m.	Pathfinder Camp Campus, Zoom, telephone, and written/electronic feedback
Community Engagement Activity	Open house, literacy activity, career/college activity, or other campus-selected engagement program	Thursday, March 11, 2027, 5:30–7:00 p.m.	Pathfinder Camp Campus, subject to facility access and safety procedures

The campus will publish or directly communicate finalized dates and access instructions. If placement, confidentiality, safety, or facility procedures limit in-person participation, Pathfinder Camp will provide a reasonable alternative such as telephone, virtual, individual, or written participation.

5. Annual Title I Meeting

Pathfinder Camp will convene an Annual Title I Meeting to explain the campus's participation in Title I, Part A; the requirements of the schoolwide program; family rights; the Campus Improvement Plan; parent and family engagement activities; opportunities to participate; curriculum and assessment information; and the School-Parent Compact.

6. Flexible and Accessible Participation

To encourage participation, Pathfinder Camp will offer daytime and evening options; telephone or virtual access; individual conferences; written or electronic feedback; translated information; and coordination through authorized caseworkers, foster parents, guardians, education decision-makers, and residential program staff. Participation methods will be selected in a manner consistent with student privacy, safety, facility procedures, and legal decision-making authority.

7. How Families Can Participate in Planning and Improvement

Parents and families may help plan, review, and improve the Title I schoolwide program, Campus Improvement Plan, parent and family engagement program, this policy, the School-Parent Compact, and activities supported with applicable PFE funds. Families may:

- attend the Annual Title I Meeting or a campus planning/review meeting;
- complete the annual family/facility survey or another campus feedback form;
- participate by telephone, virtual meeting, individual conference, or written/electronic comment;
- contact the campus principal or Title I Coordinator to request participation or materials;
- provide recommendations through an authorized caseworker, foster parent, guardian, education decision-maker, or residential program representative when appropriate; and
- request a meeting regarding the student's academic progress, services, transitions, or Title I supports.

The campus will make a good-faith effort to reach parents and authorized education decision-makers affected by student mobility or placement changes.

8. Curriculum and Instruction

Pathfinder Camp provides instruction aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and the UT Charter School curriculum framework. Campus instruction and supports may include rigorous aligned curriculum, formative assessment, Edgenuity MyPath individualized learning targets and intervention, credit recovery, Talk Read Talk Write, the Fundamental Five, School Connect, Second Step, and trauma-informed or brain-based instructional practices. The specific curriculum and high-quality instructional materials used for each enrolled student depend on grade level, course assignment, individualized needs, and current district adoption.

Families may request current course-specific curriculum and instructional-material information from the campus principal or teacher. 2026-2027 curriculum/HQIM list can be found here, https://utcharter.org/curriculum-instruction/.

9. Academic Assessments

Pathfinder Camp uses applicable state assessments and local measures to determine student needs and monitor progress. State assessments may include STAAR grades 3-8, STAAR End-of-Course assessments, TELPAS for eligible emergent bilingual students, and other state-required assessments applicable to an individual student. Local measures may include Edgenuity MyPath diagnostics and progress data, formative assessments, locally

developed assessments, course performance, credit acquisition, and other progress-monitoring tools used by UT Charter School.

Families will receive or may request information explaining the purpose of applicable assessments, the student's results, and how results are used to plan instruction and support. Additional information about the Texas Assessment Program, including STAAR, TELPAS, testing resources, and information for families, is available through the Texas Education Agency at TEA Student Assessments – Families & Students.

10. Academic Achievement Levels and Student Progress

For STAAR and STAAR EOC, Texas reports performance using the state-established achievement categories. Pathfinder Camp will explain applicable state performance levels and local progress measures in understandable language. Local progress may also be described through MyPath learning-target growth, formative assessment results, course grades, credits earned, progress toward a Personal Graduation Plan, and individualized progress measures when applicable. Families may request a conference to discuss the meaning of results and next instructional steps.

11. Timely Information and Requests for Meetings

Pathfinder Camp will provide timely information through methods appropriate to the student's circumstances and the authorized recipient, which may include direct mail, email, telephone, virtual meeting, newsletters, the UT Charter School website, the student information system, handbooks, facility communications, individual conferences, and paper copies upon request.

A parent, guardian, foster parent, caseworker, education decision-maker, or other authorized individual may request a regular or additional meeting by contacting the campus principal, lead teacher, student's teacher, or Title I Coordinator. Meetings may address academic progress, curriculum, assessments, special programs, graduation planning, transitions, attendance, Title I services, or this policy. The campus will coordinate a reasonable meeting method and will protect confidential student information.

12. Contacts

Contact	Purpose	Information
Pathfinder Camp Campus Principal	Campus meetings, curriculum, student progress, policy participation	Kris Ann Schmidt | 512-495-9361| |20800 FM 150 W DRIFTWOOD, TX 78619-0040| **krisannschmidt@austin.utexas.edu**
UT Charter School Title I Coordinator	Title I program, PFE funds, policy comments, district support	Bob Micks | 512-471-4365 | 2200 East 6th Street, Austin, TX 78702 | rmicks@austin.utexas.edu
Language or accessibility assistance	Translation, interpretation, accessible format, disability access	Jennifer Montoya | 512-232-1227 | jmontoya@austin.utexas.edu

13. Notification, Distribution, and Community Availability

After joint development and approval, the current-year policy will be distributed to parents and families of participating students and made available to the local community. Methods may include email, direct communication with authorized education decision-makers, the student information system, campus or facility communication, the UT Charter School website, handbooks or enrollment materials, and paper copies upon request. The campus will retain dated evidence of distribution and community availability.

14. Translation and Accessible Formats

Pathfinder Camp will provide this policy and related information in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language families understand. Translation, interpretation, oral explanation, large print, electronic, or other accessible formats may be requested through the contact listed in Section 12.

Español: Si necesita esta política en español, una explicación oral, servicios de interpretación o un formato accesible, comuníquese con Jennifer Montoya al 512-232-1227, jmontoya@austin.utexas.edu.

15. School-Parent Compact

The School-Parent Compact in Appendix A is jointly developed with parents and families and describes how the school, families or authorized education decision-makers, and students share responsibility for improved academic achievement. The compact will be reviewed annually and revised as appropriate based on feedback and campus needs.

16. Annual Evaluation, Review, and Revision

Pathfinder Camp will evaluate the effectiveness of its parent and family engagement program and this policy annually with meaningful input from parents, families, authorized education decision-makers, residential program partners, and other stakeholders as appropriate. The evaluation will consider barriers to participation, the needs of families in supporting student learning, the effectiveness of communication and activities, and strategies that support successful school-family partnerships. Findings will be used to revise the program, policy, activity schedule, and compact as needed.

17. Approval and Adoption

This policy was jointly developed, reviewed, and agreed upon with parents and family members of students participating in the Title I, Part A program and other authorized stakeholders. The final policy will remain in effect for the 2026-2027 school year unless revision is required. Pathfinder Camp will distribute the approved policy by the end of the first grading period.

Appendix A - Pathfinder Camp School-Parent Compact

The Pathfinder Camp community recognizes that student success in a residential setting depends on coordinated communication among school staff, students, parents or authorized education decision-makers, and residential program partners. This compact will be implemented in a manner consistent with confidentiality, safety, placement requirements, and each individual's legal authority.

Pathfinder Camp Campus will:

- provide a safe, supportive, rigorous, and trauma-informed learning environment;
- provide instruction aligned with state standards and monitor student progress using state and local measures;
- share timely information about academic progress, attendance, assessments, credits, graduation planning, and available supports with authorized recipients;
- offer reasonable opportunities for meetings and participation, including telephone or virtual options when appropriate;
- coordinate with authorized adults and residential partners to support continuity during enrollment, placement, and transition;
- provide translation, interpretation, and accessible formats when requested and practicable; and
- protect confidential student information.

Parents, guardians, foster parents, caseworkers, education decision-makers, or other authorized adults will, as applicable:

- maintain current contact and legal-authority information with the school;
- review school communications and student progress information;
- participate in meetings, planning, surveys, and conferences when possible;
- share relevant educational information needed to support continuity and transitions;
- support attendance, learning goals, graduation planning, and successful transitions; and
- communicate questions, concerns, recommendations, and requests for support.

Students will:

- attend and participate in learning;
- work toward individualized academic, behavioral, and transition goals;
- ask for help and use available academic and social-emotional supports;
- practice responsibility, persistence, communication, and teamwork; and
- participate in planning for courses, credits, graduation, careers, and college as appropriate.