

Become a Surrogate Parent Volunteer



New Life
Canyon Lake, Texas
(830)964-4390

Krause Campus, Katy TX.
Freedom Place, Porter TX.
Carson Parke, Houston TX.
Bluebonnet Haven. Brenham TX.
Office: (281) 392-7505

Pegasus Campus Lockhart,
TX
(512) 376-2518

Fort Worth Campus
Big Sandy
Willow Bend
Youth and Family
Tyler, Texas
(903) 565-6801

The Landing
2058 FM 665,
Corpus Christi, TX.
(361) 237-3044



Who are Surrogate Parents?

- Surrogate Parents are volunteers who are willing to advocate for Trinity Charter School special education students who live in residential facilities.
- Surrogate Parents work hand in hand with the case managers of the residential facilities to make educational decisions for special education students.
- Surrogate Parents may not be an employee of the state education agency (Texas Education Agency), the local education agency (TCS), or any other agency involved in the education or care of the student represented.
- The Surrogate Parent's personal and/or professional interests may not conflict with the interests of the student they represent.

What are the responsibilities of the Surrogate Parent?

- Represent the student from identification to educational placement in an interested and appropriate manner.
- Attend ARD meetings and parent conferences.
- Serve the student's educational interests.
- Visit student regularly
- Become more familiar with the mandated topics regarding disability conditions, evaluation, Individualized Education Program, legislation, placement options, procedural safeguards, and your role and responsibilities as a Surrogate Parent by attending these meetings/sessions.

How do I become a Surrogate Parent?

- Contact the TCS Special Education Office at TCS Campus.
- Complete an On-line background check for volunteers
- Complete an On-line Surrogate Parent Training,

For more information,
contact the TCS Special Education Department:
Jenny Peterson, *Director of Special Programs*
8305 Cross Park Dr. Austin, TX. (512)459-1000

Residential Facility Monitoring FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Assignment of Surrogate Parents for Students with Disabilities

Q: What is a surrogate parent?

A: Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), surrogate parents are individuals appointed to act in place of the parents of a child with a disability, with respect to participating in educational decisions for the child.

Q: When must an LEA appoint a surrogate parent for a child with a disability?

A: In accordance with 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §300.519(a) local education agencies (LEAs) are required to appoint a surrogate parent to make educational decisions for a child in the following situations:

- a parent cannot be identified;
- a parent cannot be located;
- the child is a ward of the state; or
- the child is an unaccompanied homeless youth.

Q: When is a child considered a “ward of the state”?

A: The term “ward of the state” is not defined in Texas statute. Texas case law, however, reflects that the term refers to a minor child for whom a court has appointed a public agency, such as the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS), as the temporary or permanent managing conservator of the child. As stated above, a surrogate parent must be appointed for a child who is a ward of the state.

Q: Who can be appointed as a surrogate parent?

A: To be eligible to serve as a surrogate parent, an individual must not have a personal or professional interest that conflicts with the interest of the child he or she represents and must have knowledge and skills that ensure adequate representation of the child. In addition, the IDEA regulations expressly prohibit employees of the state education agency (SEA), the LEA, or any agency that is involved in the education or care of the child from serving as surrogate parents. 34 CFR §300.519(d).



Trinity Charter Schools

NCLB/ESEA Title I PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY Trinity Charter School

Vision Statement: *Trinity Charter School educates and empowers students to transform and reclaim their lives.*

Parental Involvement

Trinity Charter School's Title I Programs shall insightfully develop a partnership with the diverse parents – surrogate, biological, foster, etc., that create the unique communities of our schools.

Trinity Charter School, upon acceptance of Title I, NCLB and ESEA funds shall develop (in partnership with parents) a parent involvement policy that will be distributed to all parents. The TCS Parental involvement policy shall be developed into the District Continuous Improvement Plan and meet all the criteria of 20 USC 6312. The policy shall address the parent involvement outcomes of 20 U.S.C. 6312 as follows:

- The involvement of parents in the creation of the original parental involvement policy and the process of school review as outlined in 20 U.S.C. 6316;
- The coordination of services, technical assistance and as well as support necessary to implement parental involvement activities;
- The development of the capacity to service parents in our schools as outlined in 20 U.S.C. 6312 (e);
- The coordination of parental involvement activities and integration into our school/district communities as outlined in 20 U.S.C. 6316; and
- The evaluation of parental involvement programs for efficiency and effectiveness as outlined in 20 U.S.C. 6318 (a)(2)(E).

All parental involvement policy shall be delivered to parents in their home language and in the format most accessible to the parent. The policy shall be available to the local community and updated periodically to guarantee that it meets the needs of the community.

Parental Involvement Plan

Annually, parents of the student, surrogate and biological, shall work with district staff to develop a written parent involvement policy which will establish the expectations for parent involvement. The policy will be reviewed annually by parents and staff and revised as necessary.

Coordination of Technical Assistance

Trinity Charter School’s District office will coordinate and provide assistance to Title I schools in the planning and implementing of effective parental involvement activities that will enhance student learning and school performance.

Building School and Parent Capacity for Involvement

Parents, and all individuals recognized to serve in that capacity, may attend special trainings to learn more about how to become involved in their child’s education.

Coordination of Parental Involvement Strategies with ESEA Programs

Parents will be provided ongoing information on the different educational programs being offered throughout the district.

Parental Involvement Evaluation

Annually, a Title I Parent Involvement evaluation will be conducted during a meeting of administrators, teachers and (at least one parent). During the meeting, feedback will be provided as to the effectiveness of the ongoing parental involvement plan. Data will be provided to rate the parental involvement plan’s effectiveness.

Parental Involvement in School Activities

Ongoing during the school year, parents, and individuals serving in that capacity, will be provided opportunities to participate in their children’s education.



Surrogate/Volunteer Parental Involvement Policy

As Trinity Charter School is a district comprised of Residential Treatment Centers (RTCs) in which 98% of the student population has been placed by Child Protective Services (CPS) and 35% qualify for special education services, the Title I Parent Involvement strategies have been applied to the volunteers/surrogate parents who work with our students. As studies reflect that parent involvement nurtures the learning process, opportunities have been structured through the surrogate and volunteer parent program.

What Each School will Implement...

Big Sandy, Bokenkamp, Chapel Hill, Krause Pegasus, New Life, and Willow Bend Schools all agree to implement surrogate programs that:

- Teach volunteers the appropriate strategies to serve as surrogate parents
- Provide ongoing feedback of their student's learning progress
- Hold monthly meetings updating the surrogate parents of the school's academic program
- Agree to be held by the legal agreement of a surrogate parent and to fully execute the rights of the students and parents through ARD meetings and other appropriate activities as deemed necessary through TEA and ongoing federal requirements.
- Communicate regularly with surrogate through progress reports, grade cards and other teacher communications.
- Obtain a signed surrogate parent commitment

Definition of Parent Involvement

The district defines parent involvement as a two-way communication system that is regular and ongoing. Therefore, documentation will be encouraged and maintained to show this commitment. Surrogate parents will be utilized in district and school strategic planning and Title CIP development.

Shared Responsibilities for Student Academic Achievement:

Big Sandy, Bokenkamp, Chapel Hill, Krause Pegasus, New Life, and Willow Bend campuses will implement surrogate parents as tutors on site thus reinforcing skills that are lagging. In addition, resources/training will be provided to surrogates for this process. Upon request, a meeting will be held for any surrogate with concerns about their student.

Trinity Charter School, as a district, will provide ongoing tips to parents through its website, in parent newsletters, special events, open houses, etc.

An end-of-the year Title I survey will be given to surrogate parents to provide feedback on the services provided to families and for future planning.