

Atlantic City Public Schools



The Texas Avenue School Compact

A Partnership for All Stakeholders

September 2016

*A*s American Citizens, one of the most important rights afforded to all of us is the right to a “Free and Appropriate Public Education”. The Texas Avenue School and the parents of the students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title I, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) are in a partnership that shares the responsibility for improved academic achievement that will help our children achieve the State’s high standards.

With this in mind, the Texas Avenue School stakeholders have developed a “Compact for Learning” to clearly state the roles and responsibilities that all of us need to meet in order to help students on the road to fulfilling their life’s ambitions.

This School Compact is in effect for the 2016-2017 school year.

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Vision

The Vision of Texas Avenue School is to provide a rich learning environment for all students through research-based instructional strategies, reflection on multiple assessments, and the utilization of technological resources to improve student achievement.

Mission

The Mission of Texas Avenue School is to provide students with an opportunity to learn in a safe and nurturing environment. All students will benefit from experiences that prepare them for the future so that they may achieve academically and become productive members of society. The abilities and cultural diversities of all students are respected and utilized to assist in achieving optimal levels of performance. These goals of Texas Avenue School are to be accomplished collaboratively, creating a partnership of achievement among students, parents, staff, the district, and the community as a whole.

REQUIRED SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT PROVISIONS

School Responsibilities

The Texas Avenue School will:

- 1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive, safe, orderly, Bully free, and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet the State’s student academic achievement standards as follows:**
 - Use standardized and individual assessment data to facilitate quality instruction.
 - Provide support services i.e. ESL, Special Ed., and Bilingual to serve the needs of students with a learning difference.
 - Infuse technology on demand into all classes.
 - Provide an independent research area for student study.
 - Follow the State Common Core Standards as a foundation for global education towards the next educational level.
 - Allow students additional opportunities to succeed through Participation in additional learning services such as After School Academy and Summer School.
 - Providing immediate relief and counseling as necessary to address any issues related to H.I.B, Substance Abuse, and the overall emotional well-being of each student.

- 2. Hold parent-teacher conferences (at least annually in elementary schools) during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child’s achievement.**
 - Specifically, those conferences will be held: tentatively the week of November 29- December 2.
 - Parents can request conferences at any time during the year. However, in the interest of educational continuity, we ask that conferences be limited to before school, after school, or during the planning time of the teacher.

3. Provide parents with frequent reports on their children’s progress.

- Specifically, the school will provide reports as follows:

Report Card Schedule 2016-2017	1st Marking	2nd Marking	3rd Marking	4th Marking
Interim Report Cards	10/11/16	12/15/16	2/23/17	5/05/17
Deliver Report Cards to the Buildings	11/23/16	2/3/17	4/05/17	6/14/17

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

- Parents can request conferences at any time during the year. However, in the interest of educational continuity, we ask that conferences be limited to before school, after school, or during the planning time of the teacher.

5. Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child’s class, and to observe classroom activities, as follows:

- Parents are permitted to come in as periodic observers and participate providing advanced notice is given.
- Parents who wish to be volunteers must complete a volunteer application to be submitted to the Board of Education.

Parent Responsibilities

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

- Monitoring amount of television their children watch.
- Volunteering in my child’s classroom.
- Participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to my children’s education.
- 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.
- Serving, to the extent possible, on policy advisory groups, such as being the Title I, Part A parent representative on the school’s School Improvement Team, the Title I Policy Advisory Committee, the District wide Policy Advisory Council, the State’s Committee of Practitioners, the School Support Team or other school advisory or policy groups.

- I will see to it that my child attends school daily, arrives on time, and is picked up on time.
- I will see to it that my child is appropriately dressed for the weather and adheres to the district uniform policy.
- I will post the district calendar in a conspicuous place and make regular contact with the school for other information regarding school events.
- I will seek out all individuals who instruct my child and maintain communication regarding my child's progress.
- I will impress upon my child the importance of following all school rules and address all issues regarding my child with an open mind.
- I will monitor my child's progress by signing off on homework assignments and making inquiries on ways to better assist my child
- I will lead by example and encourage my child to participate in all aspects of school life including extracurricular activities whether related to the arts, sports, or academics.

Student Responsibilities (revised as appropriate to grade level)

Responsibilities of the Student

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

- Exercise self-control in every area of the school so that we can learn and allow others to do the same.
- Make every effort to complete assignments and ask for extra help and additional time when necessary.
- Do our homework and ask our parent(s) to sign it.
- Participate in all available after school programs that will improve our classroom performance.
- Adhere to the district dress code.
- Treat all adults and peers with respect.
- Recite the Texas Avenue School Pledge daily.
- Live the Texas Avenue School Pledge by reporting any and all acts of HIB to school staff.
- Read at least 30 minutes every day outside of school time.
- Give our parents or the adult who is responsible for my welfare all notices and information received by me from my school every day.]

Texas Avenue School Pledge 2016-17

I promise to do my best every day,
To be the best I can be,
I choose to use kindness, respect, and self-control,
And to treat others the way I want to be treated,
I pledge to make a difference at Texas Avenue School.

Sylvia W. Stewart, Principal _____
School Parent(s) Student

9-21-2016 _____
Date Date Date

(PLEASE NOTE THAT SIGNATURES ARE NOT REQUIRED)

The ABC's of School Success

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<p style="text-align: center;">A B C_s Of Student Success</p> <p>A is for ATTENDANCE.</p> <p>Attendance is a critical factor in any child's school success. Children should attend school every day, except in cases of illness or emergency. It is impossible to replace the learning that happens on any school day with make-up work. Regular attendance and promptness are good habits that are expected and appreciated at all levels of schooling and in the workplace. This year, make school a priority in your household. Commit to excellence in attendance. Your child's future depends on it!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">©Copyright EducationWorld.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A B C_s Of Student Success</p> <p>B is for BEDTIME.</p> <p><i>Awwwww, Mom! Already?</i> Sound familiar? On average, children need 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night. Sleep is important for many reasons. Lack of sleep can cause kids to be hypersensitive, impatient, or cranky. It is more difficult for children to concentrate and learn when they are tired. (Some doctors even believe that during sleep the brain "files away" what is learned during the day.) Encouraging quiet activities -- such as reading -- just prior to bedtime offers a transition that helps children relax. <i>Sweet dreams!</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">©Copyright EducationWorld.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A B C_s Of Student Success</p> <p>C is for CHOICES.</p> <p>According to Jim Fay, author of <i>Becoming a Love and Logic Parent</i>, giving children choices is more effective than making demands. He suggests...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Never give choices if it might cause problems for you or anyone else. - Give only two options for each choice, both equally okay with you. For example, <i>Would you like peas or carrots? or Do you want to do homework now or in 15 minutes?</i> - If the child doesn't decide within 10 seconds, make the choice for him or her. <p style="text-align: center;">©Copyright EducationWorld.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">A B C_s Of Student Success</p> <p>D is for DETERMINATION.</p> <p>Children need to hear their parents say that making an effort, working hard, and planning ahead are important. We need to encourage children to set reasonable expectations, and celebrate with them when they make progress toward their goals. Children need to learn that sometimes they must sacrifice to achieve a long-term goal. Struggling with learning tasks from time to time is part of a student's "job." In the end, the feeling of accomplishment they get will lead to bigger and better accomplishments in the future!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">©Copyright EducationWorld.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A B C_s Of Student Success</p> <p>E is for EMPATHY.</p> <p>Empathy is a person's ability to identify and feel others' concerns. Parents can help to develop this important virtue in many ways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Let your child know how pleased you feel when he or she behaves in a kind way. - Point out positive differences made when children do kind acts, no matter how small. - When reading with your child, ask how people in the books feel in their situations. - Help your child identify how someone feels and then identify a way to help. <p>Source: <i>Building Moral Intelligence</i> by Michelle Borba</p> <p style="text-align: center;">©Copyright EducationWorld.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A B C_s Of Student Success</p> <p>F is for FAILURE.</p> <p>Did you know that Abraham Lincoln weathered many failures before he became president? When a child experiences failure -- on a test, the ballfield, or anywhere else...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - acknowledge the child's feelings of frustration and disappointment. Those are natural feelings. - don't try to minimize the situation because it <i>does</i> matter to your child. - Help your child evaluate the cause for failure and use what he or she has learned to create a new strategy and try, try again! <p style="text-align: center;">©Copyright EducationWorld.com</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;">A B C_s Of Student Success</p> <p>G is for GRACE.</p> <p>Grace means giving children what they need, not what they deserve. It means accepting kids as they are, and understanding their feelings and obstacles. It also means that we provide the unconditional support our children need to make positive changes. Grace, however, must be balanced with accountability or we risk enabling children to excuse unacceptable behavior or failure to achieve reasonable goals. If we balance grace with accountability, we let children know that we expect them to grow and learn.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">©Copyright EducationWorld.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A B C_s Of Student Success</p> <p>H is for HOMEWORK.</p> <p>Homework provides practice, and it enables parents to know when a child is having difficulty with schoolwork. Parents can support a school's homework policy by...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - providing a "homework area" that is well lit and free of distractions. - setting a daily "homework time." Some parents call it "schoolwork time" so kids know the "I have no homework" excuse won't work. - offering a snack or play break before homework; or using it as a homework-completion incentive. <p style="text-align: center;">©Copyright EducationWorld.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A B C_s Of Student Success</p> <p>I is for INDEPENDENCE.</p> <p>As parents, our job is to work out of a job! One of the most difficult days in parenting is the day we send children off to school for the first time. We swallow hard and let our children go. It must be harder to wave good-bye than to leave, we think. We wonder if our children will miss us. We worry about how they'll behave. We remind ourselves that our children are old enough to handle this challenge, and that they are going to face many more challenges in their lives. This one is practice for the next, so we cheer them on as we let them go!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">©Copyright EducationWorld.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">A B C_s Of Student Success</p> <p>J is for JOBS.</p> <p>Giving kids jobs at home teaches them responsibility and other valuable lessons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young children follow directions as they sort socks or set a table. Older children take on bigger tasks. - Don't expect a job to be done right unless you take time to teach the child to do it right. - Don't take away from a child's sense of accomplishment by redoing a job. With practice and encouragement, jobs help develop responsibility and a strong work ethic as they set the stage for success in life. <p style="text-align: center;">©Copyright EducationWorld.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A B C_s Of Student Success</p> <p>K is for KITCHEN.</p> <p>Cooking with kids is a great way to spend quality time and teach lifelong skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Toddlers make simple recipes as they count items and follow a sequence of steps. - Young kids read recipes, follow directions, measure ingredients, and practice safety. - Older children double or divide recipes and help plan for a party. <p>Cooking enables parents and children to work cooperatively and share accomplishments. For kid-friendly recipes, see http://kid.allrecipes.com.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">©Copyright EducationWorld.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A B C_s Of Student Success</p> <p>L is for LISTENING.</p> <p><i>"God gave us two ears and one mouth for a reason: we should spend twice as much time listening as talking!"</i></p> <p>As parents, we can spend quality time in our children's world by...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - listening -- focusing on what a child is saying <i>and</i> on his or her body language. - maintaining eye contact with the child. - smiling and nodding, which will encourage the child to continue. - paraphrasing what a child has said, and asking questions to be sure we understand. <p style="text-align: center;">©Copyright EducationWorld.com</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;">A B C_s Of Student Success</p> <p>M is for MONEY.</p> <p>Children can start learning about money at a young age. Parents can help very young kids understand how money is used by letting them hand money to a cashier. Soon children will be able to make choices about how to spend money as they learn that it is a <i>limited</i> resource. Older children can compare prices. (How much can be saved by buying a generic-brand cereal?) Kids also need to learn about saving money. Young kids might use a "piggy bank" while older children will learn about interest by setting up a real bank account.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">©Copyright EducationWorld.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A B C_s Of Student Success</p> <p>N is for NOTHING.</p> <p>Was "Nothing" your child's response to the question "What did you do at school today?"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Instead of asking about the day as a whole, ask about math or lunchtime or recess or... - Don't ask yes or no questions. Ask <i>What did you think...?</i> or <i>How did you decide...?</i> - At dinnertime, ask each member of the family to tell the best and worst thing that happened that day. That opens the door to conversation, sharing experiences and tips for handling frustration, and emphasizing that something good happens every day. <p style="text-align: center;">©Copyright EducationWorld.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A B C_s Of Student Success</p> <p>O is for OVERCOMING OBSTACLES.</p> <p>When kids face obstacles that seem insurmountable, parents must be there to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - encourage children to have high -- but achievable -- expectations. - ask children <i>How do you eat an elephant?</i> (One bite at a time!) That's how people face obstacles too. Help your children divide and conquer their obstacles. - Help children recall past experiences. Emphasize their accomplishments. Use those memories to build kids' confidence as they "keep their eyes on the prize." <p style="text-align: center;">©Copyright EducationWorld.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">A B C_s Of Student Success</p> <p>P is for PARENT INVOLVEMENT.</p> <p>Research shows that students with parents who are involved in their education have higher achievement. You can get involved in your child's education by...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reading with your child each night. Regular reading improves many skills. It reinforces that reading is a valuable and pleasurable activity. - volunteering at school. Call your child's teacher for ideas about how you can help at school or from home. - attending school activities. Be your child's number one fan! <p style="text-align: center;">©Copyright EducationWorld.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A B C_s Of Student Success</p> <p>Q is for QUESTIONS.</p> <p>Find out what is on your child's mind by asking questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ask specific questions. Your child is more likely to have an answer to <i>Who did you play with at recess?</i> than <i>How was your day?</i> - Ask open-ended questions. <i>How did you do that?</i> or <i>What would happen if...?</i> questions will yield more information than questions that can be answered in a word or two. - Help your child develop critical thinking skills by responding to his or her questions with questions. <p style="text-align: center;">©Copyright EducationWorld.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A B C_s Of Student Success</p> <p>R is for RESPECT.</p> <p>If children are to show respect for others, they need to understand what it is to be respected. Author Michelle Borba emphasizes these parent practices that nurture respect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Treat your child as the most important person in the world. - Encourage children to have high -- but achievable -- expectations of themselves. - Give love with no strings attached. - Listen attentively and respectfully. - Enjoy being together. - Tell kids often <i>why</i> you love them. <p style="text-align: center;">©Copyright EducationWorld.com</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;">A B C_s Of Student Success</p> <p>S is for SECURITY.</p> <p>More than ever, we need to reassure our children that they are safe and secure. We can do that in many ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limit exposure to TV, adult conversations. - Give children only the information they need to know. - Help them understand that images on TV are far away events, not impending threats. - Avoid overreacting. - Watch for children's unspoken reactions. - Listen to what our children have to say and reassure them that their feelings are normal. <p style="text-align: center;">©Copyright EducationWorld.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A B C_s Of Student Success</p> <p>T is for TESTING.</p> <p>We all know test results are important. They are important because they help us measure the impact of our instruction. To encourage kids to do their best on a test, we can...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - encourage a positive attitude: <i>It may be tough, but you can do it!</i> - be sure they eat a good breakfast. Kids think better on a full stomach. - tell them not to worry if a question seems tricky: <i>Reread it. Answer the best you can.</i> - Remind them to go back to make sure they didn't make careless mistakes. <p style="text-align: center;">©Copyright EducationWorld.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A B C_s Of Student Success</p> <p>U is for UNIQUE</p> <p>It sounds cliché, but it's true -- your child is unique, unlike anyone else!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oprah once mentioned that parents should "light up" when their child walks into a room. How special is that? - Let your child know what you appreciate about him. Point out his or her special accomplishments and talents. - Nurture your child's special interests by providing related experiences and books. - Spend time with others who share your appreciation of your child's uniqueness. <p style="text-align: center;">©Copyright EducationWorld.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">A B C_s Of Student Success</p> <p>V is for VIPs.</p> <p>Who are some of the Very Important People in our school? Our teachers, of course! Teachers plan interesting lessons, assess reading levels, grade assignments, answer questions, lead discussions, guide activities, solve problems, and settle debates. Teachers watch the playground, supervise the cafeteria, tie shoes, button coats, dry tears... Most of all, teachers care about kids. Take a little time in the week ahead to remember to thank your favorite teachers. A little encouragement can make a big difference!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">©Copyright EducationWorld.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A B C_s Of Student Success</p> <p>W is for WISDOM.</p> <p>Wisdom is learning born from experiences, both positive and negative. You can develop wisdom in your child by...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - allowing him or her to make choices and know the consequences of the choices. - encouraging children to reflect on what they learn through their experiences. <i>Would he do it again? Would she do it differently?</i> - helping children recognize the effects their actions have on people and situations. - observing and pointing out the actions and consequences of others' behaviors. <p style="text-align: center;">©Copyright EducationWorld.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A B C_s Of Student Success</p> <p>X is for EXPLORE.</p> <p>Children are naturally curious about many things. Providing opportunities to explore their interests is a great way to help them learn.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage children to seek answers to their own questions. - Buy books that capitalize on their interests and help them learn more. (Even better, visit the library.) - Support hobbies by providing supplies and complimenting their efforts. Better yet, join in the fun! - Visit museums and other places of interest. <p style="text-align: center;">©Copyright EducationWorld.com</p>

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Y is for YESTERDAY.

How can you nurture your child's interest in the past?

- You and your child can learn about your family's history by creating a family tree.
- Share what life was like when you were a child. Interview grandparents about what life was like when they were children.
- Create a scrapbook or photo album and fill it with old family pictures and mementos.
- Preserve tomorrow's memories by journaling or creating a time capsule of the present. Your grandchildren will thank you!

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Z is for ZOOMED.

The school year has *zoomed* by! It has been a great year full of learning and fun. Thank you, parents, for supporting our school and encouraging your child all year long. Thank you, teachers and assistants, for coming up with interesting ways to learn. And thanks to our custodians, secretaries, bus drivers, and cooks, who keep us all safe, informed, on time, and well fed. Finally, thank you students! You gave your best efforts. You grew in so many ways. Have a great summer, and we look forward to seeing you next school year.

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