



SOUTHWEST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

2018 – 2019 District Parent & Family Engagement Policy

(Revised 08.12.18)



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Southwest Independent School District is dedicated to providing quality education for every student in our district. To accomplish this objective, we will develop partnerships with parents and community members, support a positive relationship between home and school and foster open lines of communication to expand and enhance learning opportunities for all community members.

Grade level learning objectives (skills that students should develop and master) and goals for each grade level will be communicated to all parents at the beginning of the school year. All students will be expected to work toward mastering these objectives throughout the school year. The district will provide opportunities at school and through extended learning opportunities for interventions and acceleration. These interventions or acceleration strategies are available to all students through the Title I program and various other educational services offered throughout the district. Southwest ISD encourages parent engagement in all aspects of school success and this participation is a priority in Title I programs.

PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN DEVELOPING THE POLICY

Parents, members of the community, and school staff will meet to discuss the design and implementation of the Parent & Family Engagement Policy. Southwest ISD will actively recruit participation through various avenues of communication. Parent participation will strive to include a diverse population of members, to represent all families, during policy and decision making meetings. Meetings will be planned at convenient times and locations for stakeholders. District personnel will provide guidance and support to campuses on development of their plan.

MEETINGS FOR TITLE I PARENTS & FAMILIES

Southwest ISD will hold at least two meetings for parents during each school year. In the first meeting at the beginning of the school year, parents will be informed of new Title I guidelines, parent & family engagement opportunities, and district initiatives. Copies of the district's current Parent & Family Engagement Policy will be distributed or posted. Parents will be encouraged to become involved in the revising and updating the policy annually. Volunteers will be recruited for the district-wide and campus advisory committees. In the spring a meeting will be held in a district centered location and open to the public. This meeting will review categorical spending for the district, campus/district ratings, strategic plan updates, assist with campus/district comprehensive needs assessments/program evaluation for parent & family engagement, and a review and adoption of a District Parent & Family Engagement Policy. All meetings will be held at a convenient time and location, with written notices provided to attract as many parents as possible to participate in this process.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACTS

In accordance with Title I regulations, each school must develop a school-parent compact with the parents of students participating in the program. This compact will enable the school and parents to share responsibility for student performance and success. The compact must explain how students, parents, families, and staff will share responsibility for student performance and success. The compact must include activities or strategies on how students, parents, and staff will share responsibility for promoting student achievement. Members of the school's Campus Improvement Team (CIT) will be consulted in the design and implementation of the compact.

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All parents will be given a copy of the compact, detailing the responsibilities that teachers, parents, and students have in helping students accomplish their goals after the first grading cycle. Student's responsibilities will vary by grade level and campus. Parent's/student's signatures will be highly encouraged after reading the compact with their student.

TYPES OF PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

The school will support various parent & family engagement activities as it strives to develop and maintain an effective learning environment for all students. Parents will be encouraged to contribute through volunteer programs at school as well as create a supportive home environment. The community may participate through a variety of activities that promote student success. Campuses will support parents/families in building academic and social emotional knowledge to better support students. Some campuses may train parents or have parents train staff on enhancing engagement. A district parent advisory team will be used to provide feedback to the district for enhancement. Each group will work as a team to develop and maintain parent & family engagement activities best suited to meet the individual needs of their student and campus.

MATCHING PROGRAMS TO THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY

The community will be consulted in the design, development and implementation of the Title I program. Parent and student needs will be assessed through surveys and parental feedback, as well as a variety of research-based models, will be used to create a successful parent & family engagement. Workshops and programs will be designed to meet the unique student and parental needs of the community. Parents will be informed of engagement activities through the school offices, personnel, and various media methods. The district welcomes parental suggestions and on-going communication. Parents and community members may direct suggestions to any campus principal, District Counselor Director, or parent liaison.

STAFF/PARENT COMMUNICATION

Parents will be informed of student's progress and opportunities for extended learning through various avenues of communication throughout the school year and frequently on progress of their child. Newsletters, conferences, personal contacts, and written notices or mail will be utilized to establish and maintain an open line of communication.

All teachers and front office members will receive annual training on the importance of parent & family engagement as well as effective ways to work with parents and community members.

EVALUATION

Parents will be questioned about the effectiveness of the program and offer suggestions for program improvement. The evaluation procedure will include assessment of the Parent & Family Engagement Policy as well as recommendations for improvement in academic and parent engagement programs.