

# **Abilene Independent School District**

## **Title 1 Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

### **2020 - 2021**

#### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Abilene ISD is dedicated to providing quality education for every student in our district. To accomplish this objective, we must develop and maintain active partnerships with parents, families and community members. Each student will benefit from supportive, active involvement of all members of the community. A positive link between home and school will create the most conducive learning condition for every child. These partnerships and open lines of communication will expand and enhance learning opportunities for everyone involved.

All students will be expected to work toward mastering the curriculum objectives outlined in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Our district recognizes the fact that some students will need extra assistance to achieve their full potential. The extra assistance is available to all students at the Title 1 Schools through Title I supplemental programs and various other educational services offered through the district.

Abilene ISD intends to include parents and families in all aspects of the Title 1 program. Students will be given every opportunity to succeed through the development and enhancement of the home/school partnership. This plan's development has involved parents in the joint development of the Title I plan and the process of school review and improvement.

#### **PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN DEVELOPING THE POLICY**

Annually, all Title I schools will convene a meeting to which all parents and family members of participating students are invited. Parents and members of the community will be informed of the school's participation in the Title I program and of the right of the parents and families to be involved in school activities and program planning for Title I.

Abilene ISD will actively recruit a diverse parent population that is representative of the student body to participate in parent and family engagement activities.

Abilene ISD will attempt to plan meetings that will be at convenient times and locations to help increase parent and family participation.

#### **MEETINGS FOR TITLE 1 PARENTS AND FAMILIES**

All parents and families will be provided with opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions, share experiences with other parents, and to participate in decisions relating to the education of their children. The AISD Title 1 campuses will hold several meetings for parents/families during each school year. Parents will be informed of Title 1 and its purpose. Parents/families will also be provided with a copy of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the School-Parent Compact. Parents will have the opportunity to meet with the school at least twice a year at the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Meetings. Additionally, parents will have the opportunity to attend campus-designed, Parent and Family Engagement Activities at least twice a year. The Parent and Family Engagement Activities are educational in nature and facilitate activities designed for parents to work with their children. (Past events have included family literacy nights, make-it-take-it workshops, educational games, etc.)

The meetings will be held at times and locations to ensure the most parental/family participation possible. Language translation and childcare may be provided to ensure parent participation and attendance. Written notices will be provided to inform and attract as many parents as possible.

## **SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACTS**

According to Title 1 guidelines, each Title 1 campus 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 their children's education. The compact must explain how students, parents, and staff will share responsibility for student performance and success. Members of each campus' Campus-Wide Consultation Committee (including parents) will be consulted in the design and implementation of the compact.

Elementary teachers will meet with all parents in order to discuss the compact. Parents will be provided with a copy of the compact detailing the responsibilities that teachers, parents, and students have in helping students succeed academically. The signatures of parents, students, teachers and administrators will help ensure the commitment to educational excellence. Parents are encouraged to discuss the contents of the compact with their children.

## **TYPES OF PARENT/FAMILY INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT**

Abilene ISD will support a variety of Title 1 parental and family engagement activities as it strives to develop and maintain the optimum learning environment for all students. Parents may contribute their time and commitment through volunteer programs at the schools as well as create a supportive and educationally-rich home atmosphere. In addition, the community may participate through an array of activities that promote student success. Each school and family will develop and maintain parental involvement activities best suited to meet the individual needs of everyone involved.

## **MATCHING PROGRAMS TO THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY**

An adequate number of parents will work collaboratively with staff at the school in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the Title I program. Opportunities for participation will be provided to parents with limited English proficiency, disabilities, and who are migratory.

The community will be consulted in the design, development and implementation of the Title 1 program. Parent and student needs will be assessed through questionnaires and parental suggestions as well as a variety of other measures targeted at creating a successful school environment.

Workshops and programs will be tailored to meet the unique student, parental and family needs of the school community. Parents will be informed of involvement activities through the school and district offices.

Abilene ISD will welcome and promote suggestions to improve parental and family engagement.

## **STAFF/PARENT COMMUNICATION**

All parents will be provided with the campus academic performance information annually. Additionally, parents will receive timely academic performance reports for their child. Each campus will provide assistance in interpreting the assessment results if requested. They will also be provided a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of assessment used to measure student progress, and the levels of proficiency that students are expected to meet.

Parents will receive timely information regarding Supplemental Educational Services and School Choice as required by ESSA (formerly NCLB) if a campus is placed into School Improvement by TEA and/or is identified as being persistently dangerous.

All parents will be provided timely information about available programs through newsletters and flyers. Information will be provided in a language and format that parents can understand whenever possible.

Parents will be kept informed about their children's academic progress on a regular basis. Parents and family members will also be informed of opportunities to participate and volunteer throughout the school year.

All parents will receive materials and training opportunities to help parents and other family members work with their children to improve student achievement.

Newsletters, conferences, personal contacts, and written notices will be utilized to establish and maintain an open line of communication.

Teachers and school personnel will receive training in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners. All staff members will be trained in positive communication activities and in ways to effectively work with parent, family and community members.

### **EVALUATION**

During the last six weeks, parents at the Title 1 campuses will be provided a Title 1 Parent Survey that will question the parental understanding and participation in the Title 1 program. The survey will also provide an opportunity for parents to offer their comments and suggestions for program improvement—including increasing parental and family engagement.

The evaluation procedure will include a review of the parent-survey results at the annual District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC) meeting. The district will revise its Parent and Family Engagement Policy based on the results of this annual review and information obtained during District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC) meeting.

Additionally, each campus will conduct an annual review of their campus Title 1 program. Parents will work with staff in order to review the campus' Parent and Family Engagement policy. The review will focus on increasing the academic quality of the school through parental and family engagement.

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This policy, with recommended changes, was adopted by the **2019 DPAC** on **May 17, 2019**. Due to the COVID-19 shutdown in the spring of 2020, the policy has been extended and will be in effect for the period of the **2020-2021** school-year. The school will distribute this policy to all parents on or before **September 30, 2020**.

  
(Signature of Authorized Official)

May 25, 2020  
(Date)