



2023-2024

TITLE I, PART A PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

SOUTHWEST PUBLIC SCHOOLS will implement the following Every Student Succeeds Act requirement:

1. Conduct a meaningful consultation with parents of participating children to implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents at all Title I, Part A schools.
2. Develop jointly with, agree with, and distribute to parents of participating children the district's written Parent and Family Engagement Policy. The district will incorporate this policy into the district's plan.
3. Provide technical assistance for all Title I, Part A schools to develop jointly with parents the school's written Parent and Family Engagement Policy including the school-parent compact.
4. Provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist its Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
5. Support its Title I, Part A schools to build the schools' and parents' capacity for active parental involvement and promoting parenting skills and family literacy to improve academic achievement.
6. Coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies for the Title I, Part A program with parental involvement strategies under other programs when feasible.
7. Conduct with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and its program in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The district will use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, the parental involvement policies.
8. Identify any barriers to greater participation by parents in activities of participating children at its Title I, Part A schools with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background.
9. Ensure that all parent notifications and school reports will be in an understandable and uniform format and to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand.





STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

SOUTHWEST PUBLIC SCHOOLS is committed to collaborating with parents, students, the community, and other stakeholders to improve student academic achievement. SOUTHWEST PUBLIC SCHOOLS values parents as partners in preparing our students to succeed in college, career, and beyond. The district recognizes that parents play an extremely key role as their child's first teacher and are valued partners in the educational process. As a result, parents will be included in appropriate decision-making opportunities to support student academic achievement. Partnerships with parents and the community are vital. Therefore, SOUTHWEST PUBLIC SCHOOLS encourage the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. SOUTHWEST PUBLIC SCHOOLS wants parents to:

- Stay informed about their child's academic well-being through various forms of communication.
- Work in partnership with school staff to help their child to achieve at the highest levels.
- Communicate to their child the importance of being prepared for college and a career.

SOUTHWEST PUBLIC SCHOOLS curriculum is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and includes nonnegotiable objectives that must be taught at every grade level. However, individual schools are held accountable for innovative instructional programs and their instructional results. Every SOUTHWEST PUBLIC SCHOOLS student will be provided equal access to rigorous instruction and academic programs.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN DEVELOPING THE POLICY

All school and district activities will promote and encourage parental involvement. The district will offer Parent Consultation Meetings to collaborate with parents and other stakeholders about the policy. Parent Consultation Meetings will consist of volunteers such as parents, guardians, Title I Campus Contacts or other campus staff members, administrators, members of the community and district office staff to update the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy. The goal is to have parent participation in the decision-making process regarding the Title I, Part A program.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND COORDINATION

The purpose of capacity building is to ensure long-term continuous parental involvement. Capacity building activities and training (i.e., Parenting classes, Tutorials, and camps) will be provided to parents to increase academic achievement through districtwide and campus efforts. The district will coordinate these efforts and strategies with other federal and state programs in a variety of ways.





SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACTS

A School-Parent Compact is an agreement that outlines how parents, staff, and students will share responsibility for improved academic achievement. Each school must share the responsibility with parents for high student academic performance by developing a School-Parent Compact cooperatively and collaboratively with parents. Parents will receive the school-Parent Compact from their child's school with a list of responsibilities. Teachers, parents, and students will each have specific responsibilities for helping students achieve their goals. Student responsibilities may vary by grade level. Communication between parents and school personnel must be in the language parents understand. The school-Parent Compact is strongly encouraged to be discussed at all school events. Per the United States Department of Education (USDE) statute, in elementary schools the school-Parent Compact shall be discussed, at least annually, at parent-teacher conferences as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement.

TYPES OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

There are many ways in which parents can become involved in their child's education. SWPS values contributions that take place at home, at school and in the community. Reading to children at home and talking with them at family meals are as important as volunteering at school and serving on advisory committees. Many types of parental involvement are needed in a school-home-community partnership to ensure that all children succeed. Each Title I, Part A campus is responsible for creating meaningful ways for parents to be involved in their child's education. Parents are encouraged to participate in a variety of parental involvement activities, Parent and Family Engagement and serve as a campus volunteer. For the safety of all students, all volunteers are required to register through the Raptor program and complete a background check through our HR department.

MATCHING PROGRAMS TO THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY

Each year, SWPS will determine the needs of parents and children in the community through a variety of measures. In collaboration with our Social Workers and Health and Wellness Coordinator, a variety of workshops and programs will be made available to parents to improve the involvement in their child's education and academic achievement. Parents will be notified about these opportunities through the schools. Parents may also contact the Director of Outreach & Community Engagement at the district office at any time to express an interest in a particular type of workshop or to make other suggestions.





For Title I, Part A campuses, communication with parents is important. To facilitate excellent communication between parents and school personnel, the school may utilize the following strategies: monthly newsletters, written notifications, phone calls, emails, social media engines. Communication between parents and school personnel must be in the language parents understand. To better assist campus-parent communication, the district may provide training for school personnel on beneficial communication skills with parents.

ANNUAL MEETING FOR TITLE I, PART A PARENTS

An Annual Meeting for Title I, Part A parents will be held as a stand-alone campus meeting separate from Open House or any other school/parent meeting. The district will provide trainings for schools on Title I, Part A Section 1116, and best practices in conducting the Title I, Part A Annual Meetings where parents are informed on how funds are used on their child's campus for parental involvement activities. A flexible number of meetings must be offered throughout the school year. The district has mandated at least eight meetings a year. Four meetings in the Fall and four meetings in the Spring. Two of the meetings in the Fall will be the Fall Annual Title I and Part A meeting. Two of the meetings in the Spring will be the Spring Annual Title I and Part A meeting.

EVALUATION

In collaboration with parents, SWPS will conduct an Annual Consultation Meeting to review the content and effectiveness of all federal programs, and parents will be asked for their input. The district will evaluate the Title I, Part A Parent and Family Engagement Program by collecting information from parent surveys. The parent survey results will measure any increase in parental involvement and identify any barriers to effective parental participation. Annually, SWPS will review and revise, as necessary, the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy based on this annual review.

CONCLUSION

SWPS is committed to ensuring that parents are partners in all Title I and Part A schools. "Parents as Partners" is one of the Core Values of the district's ideology and will be supported by the Title I, Part A Parent and Family Engagement Program promoted by empowering parents, principals, and school and district staff.

