

## **Slaton ISD District Parent Involvement Policy**

Education succeeds best when there is a strong partnership and communication between home and schools. As key players in the education of their children, parents are involved in developing a policy which will achieve maximum effectiveness in the ties between home and school so that children will benefit from their time at school and the services provided by the Title I, Part A program. The Title I, Part A program is the major component of the No Child Left Behind Law. This law was passed by congress to provide additional funding for school districts that have higher percentages of students living in poverty. The intent and purpose of the law is to enable school districts to provide additional support to students and improve student achievement overall. Parental involvement is also a major section of the law because it is well known that good communication between parents and the school enable students to be more successful. The parent involvement policy is one that is subject to change and revision in order to remain effective in meeting the needs of children who live in a constantly changing society. Parents and school personnel work together to achieve such a policy.

### **PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICIES AND PRACTICES REQUIREMENTS AND HOW ACHIEVED**

1. **Requirement:** Involve parents in the joint development of the Title I, Part A program plan.

**How Achieved:** District and campus site-based improvement committee meetings; annual meeting with parents and staff to evaluate the Title I program and make recommendations for its improvement; Goals Day conferences; Meet the Teachers Night; parent activities throughout the year such as Muffins for Moms, Donuts for Dads, or Math and/or Reading Nights at school; parent volunteer solicitation. Notices of meetings, meeting agendas, and meeting minutes reflect parent participation.

2. **Requirement:** Provide coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

**How Achieved:** School personnel are primarily responsible for these areas. Coordination, assistance, and support is achieved by providing a site and scheduling meetings to be as convenient as possible for parents to attend. Parents are encouraged to:

- Attend monthly parent meetings that are communicated via the parent activity calendar
- Participate in the annual Title I evaluation meeting held in the Spring

- Attend meetings with teachers to discuss their child's academic progress and performance in the classroom on Goals Days and at other times
  - Read information shared with parents via Tuesday (SFA)/Thursday (WW) folders, parent magazines, and parent newsletters
  - Participate in district-wide activities with their children
3. **Requirement:** Build the district's and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement.

**How Achieved:**

- Parents are given information about the Title I Part A program during Meet the Teachers Night before school begins in the fall. At that time, their involvement in activities throughout the year is solicited.
  - The school district listens to parents' concerns and suggestions and attempts to respond in a positive manner, always keeping the best interest of the child at the forefront of decision-making.
  - Communication between the home and school is vital for strong involvement, and the district provides various avenues for communication:
    - Parents are encouraged to phone or personally contact their child's teacher or administrator;
    - Parent activity calendars provide current information;
    - Progress reports and report cards give information about student academic progress;
    - Pertinent information to parents is sent home in Tuesday (SFA)/Thursday (WW) folders;
    - Parents are contacted regarding any other areas where a one-on-one discussion is necessary.
4. **Requirement:** Coordinate and integrate Title I Part A parental involvement strategies with parental involvement strategies under other programs, such as Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents as Teacher, and Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and state-run preschool programs.

**How Achieved:** Registration for Pre-K and/or Kindergarten is scheduled each May as a child's first formal experience in the public school setting. Located near Lubbock, the primary occupations in Slaton are agricultural related and railroad employment, but a number of parents also work in Lubbock. Thus, parent involvement activities occur primarily in the early morning and evening to allow more parents to attend. Administrators are flexible in scheduling both group and individual parent meetings. Attendance at sports events reflects strong interest of parents whose children are not yet old enough to participate in school sports. A strong academic program is the foundation developed at the elementary level with emphasis on the four core areas of reading/English language arts, math, science and social studies. This is continued at the Middle School and High School levels and includes pre-advanced placement, advanced placement and

dual credit courses in High School. Consequently, children are often familiar with school before enrolling in Pre-K or Kindergarten.

5. **Requirement:** Conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of Title I, Part A schools, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in Title I Part A activities, and use the findings of such evaluations to design strategies for more effective parental involvement.

**How Achieved:** Parents and school personnel meet together each spring to evaluate the effectiveness of the Title I Part A program and to suggest ideas for improvement and/or additional activities for consideration.

6. **Requirement:** Involve parents in the activities of Title I Part A schools.

**How Achieved:** Parents are encouraged to participate in the following activities:

- Read and discuss the student handbook prior to signing and returning the signature form to school
- Emphasize the importance of education and encourage participation in school activities
- Stay informed about their child's activities and progress by attending parent conferences and other parent meetings
- Learn about the curriculum, instruction, and assessment program in the district
- Become familiar with the teaching materials, textbooks and other instructional materials the child is using
- Examine the tests and other assessments the child has completed
- Monitor their child's progress and contact teachers, counselor, or principal as needed
- Review their child's records when needed
- Volunteer at the school
- Participate in parent organizations, such as site-based decision making committees, booster clubs, and PAT
- Familiarize themselves with federally funded programs such as Title I that provide important educational support services for students
- Be aware of their rights within the guidelines of district policy and the law
- Attend parent activities such as Muffins for Moms, Donuts for Dads, etc.
- Attend scheduled Goals conferences with their child's teachers