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Sterling City ISD
District Parent and Family Engagement Policy
2023-2024

Sterling City ISD will implement the following statutory requirements:

- ⇒ The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I programs. Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- ⇒ The school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the Title I requirements, and include, as a component, a school parent compact.
- ⇒ The school district will incorporate this district-wide parental engagement policy into its district plan.
- ⇒ In carrying out the Title I parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents with children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- ⇒ The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- ⇒ The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
- (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- (C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on parent advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; parents may serve on the District Improvement Committee, Student Health Advisory Committee, attend family engagement activities i.e. Turkey Trot, Field Day, etc., Thanksgiving Feast, Kickoff, Meet the Teacher, and all extra-curricular activities.*

Statement of Purpose

Sterling City ISD's vision is to build productive citizens with pride and integrity. It is also our vision to encourage innovation through an engaging atmosphere and authentic learning experiences. To accomplish this objective, the district will develop and maintain partnerships with parents/caregivers, patrons, and community members.

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All students will be expected to work toward mastering grade-level Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Sterling City ISD acknowledges some students will need specialized assistance to achieve their full potential. Extra support is available through the Title I program and various other educational services offered through the District.

Parent Involvement in Developing the Policy and the District Improvement Plan

Sterling City ISD will provide the following support in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

- ⇒ The Sterling City ISD District Planning Committee comprised of parents/caregivers, community members and campus personnel will meet annually to review and update the design and implementation of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy based on parent input and provide feedback and input on campus plans, policies and budget allocations.
- ⇒ The District will submit any parent comments on the District Improvement Plan from those who are not satisfied with the plan.

Sterling City ISD will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of the District's Parent and Family Engagement Policy:

- ⇒ Actively recruit parents/caregivers to serve on district and campus committees.
- ⇒ Schedule meetings at convenient times and offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and provide home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement.
- ⇒ Facilitate communication between parents/caregivers and Title I campuses through website postings, sending letters/notifications home with students, and utilizing mass communication systems.
- ⇒ Parents can make comment on the District Improvement Plan through attendance at school board meetings.

The Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be distributed to parents at "Meet the Teacher" night with back to school orientation information, and at teacher conferences. It will also be made available for parents and the local community on the District's website in Spanish and English at www.sterlingcityisd.net under the "Parents/Students" tab.

Annual Meetings for Title I Parents

Two annual Title I meetings will be provided no later than December 15, 2023 with one meeting being held within the first six weeks of school and the second meeting to be held within the third six weeks of school in order to review the Title I school requirements, policies, and services as well as the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Parents are encouraged at the annual meetings to be involved in reviewing, revising, and updating the Policy as necessary. The meetings will be held at a convenient time and location; notice of the meetings will be provided through written invitations to parents/caregivers, posted on the District's website, and through public notices. Translators will be available to help with non-English speaking parents/caregivers.

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Flexible Number of Meetings

Parents are invited to participate in a variety of meetings and activities throughout the course of the school year. Such meetings will be held at various times during the morning and evening hours. A “Meet the Teacher” night is held each year in August to provide parents the opportunity to visit their child’s classroom to become informed about grade level expectations. For parents who are unable to attend “Meet the Teacher” night, teachers will schedule individual parent-teacher conferences within the first three weeks of school. Parents are invited to participate in parent-teacher conferences throughout the school year to discuss their child’s progress. Parents may meet with teachers before and after school and during scheduled conference periods.

Capacity Building

Sterling City ISD will build the schools’ and parents’ capacity for strong parental involvement in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the schools involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following:

- ⇒ Provide assistance to parents in understanding state’s academic standards and assessments and provide assistance to parents how to monitor a child’s progress by posting “how to” videos on the District’s website demonstrating how parents can access Gradespeed and the STAAR Portal.
- ⇒ Provide assistance to parents on how to work with teachers to improve their child’s achievement and provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children’s achievement by providing two “Parent Resource” centers located in the office foyers on each campus where a Title I parent newsletter and other resources regarding literacy and how to use technology will be made available.
- ⇒ Staff members will be updated on the importance of two-way communication between parents and school during staff meetings throughout the school year.
- ⇒ The District shall to the greatest extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, Child Find, McKinney-Vento, English as a Second Language Program, and conduct other activities such as parent resource centers, Pre-Kindergarten Roundup, encouraging parent volunteering, and school newsletters.
- ⇒ In addition, parental input will be solicited through meetings, a survey, and parent-teacher conferences. Parents can submit requests for other reasonable support for parental involvement activities by completing an online request form. The request form is posted on the District’s website.
- ⇒ Sterling City ISD will take reasonable measures to ensure parents with limited English have meaningful access to participate in meetings, programs, and activities. The District will provide translators at the request of parents and written documents, such as the District Improvement Plan, Student Code of Conduct, Title I Compact, and the Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be translated into Spanish. Translated documents can be viewed on the District’s website

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and are made available in campus offices. When translation of documents is needed, Sterling City ISD will translate documents through the use of bilingual staff translators, Google translation, or through the use of the translation option on the District's website.

Staff/Parent Communications

Parents/caregivers will be informed of school activities through various avenues of communication throughout the school year; they will be consulted in the design, development and implementation of the Title I program. Teacher notes, conferences, personal contacts, phone calls and written notices will be used to establish and maintain open lines of communication with parents/caregivers. Translators will be available and/or Title I information will be provided in both English and Spanish. The District will contact and provide a bilingual staff translator to interpret verbal and written communication. Translated documents can be viewed on the District's website and are made available in campus offices. When translation of documents is needed, Sterling City ISD will translate documents through the use of bilingual staff translators, Google translation, or through the use of the translation option on the District's website.

Sterling City ISD will communicate curricular and assessment expectations, proficiency levels students are expected to meet, and descriptions and explanations of the District's curriculum in a timely manner. The District uses a variety of communication means such as the Student Handbook, "Meet the Teacher" night, School Website, Student Folders, Parent-Teacher Conferences, ARD/LPAC Meetings, Individual Notes/Phone Calls, Surveys, Report Cards, Progress Reports, Blackboard Connect, and the local newspaper to solicit parent participation and deliver important information concerning student achievement.

School-Parent Compacts

Sterling City ISD will jointly develop with parents a Parent-Teacher-Student Compact. This compact will provide an outline to enable the school and parents/caregivers to share responsibility for student performance and success. This compact explains how students, parents/caregivers, and staff will share responsibility for promoting student achievement. Students and parents are encouraged to discuss the contents of the compact. Compacts will be discussed during parent-teacher conferences. Compacts will be discussed annually at parent-teacher conferences held at the Elementary level.

Evaluation

Sterling City ISD will conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement policies through a parent survey. This evaluation will be sensitive to the needs of the economically disadvantaged, limited English proficiency, limited literacy, and racial/ethnic backgrounds. The District will use the findings of the evaluation to identify more effective strategies for parent/family involvement and to revise the policies, if necessary. The evaluation will also help identify barriers to participation by parents/families, identify needs of parents/families to assist with the learning of their children, and identify strategies to support successful school and family interactions.

(Reviewed and Revised 6/6/2023)