

Sterling City ISD
District Parent and Family Engagement Policy
2018-2019

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 advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;*

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.

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 extra 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

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

- ⇒ A district meeting of parents/caregivers, community members and campus personnel to provide feedback and input on campus plans, policies and budget allocations (District Improvement Committee)

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.

Annual Meetings for Title I Parents

Sterling City ISD will hold at least one meeting annually to review Title I policies and services offered through the district. Copies of the Parent and Family Engagement policies will be distributed at the meeting. Parents are encouraged to become involved in the revising and updating of the policies as necessary.

The meeting will be held at a convenient time and location; notice of the meeting 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.

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 topics such as the following:
 - the state's academic content standards
 - the state's student academic achievement standards
 - the state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
 - the requirements of Title I
 - how to monitor their child's progress
 - how to work with educators

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. Sterling City ISD staff members will maintain a record of parent contacts throughout the school year.

School-Parent Compacts

Sterling City ISD shall jointly develop with parents for all children served a School-Parent Compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The parent compact will be reviewed yearly for updates and revisions.

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. The District will use the findings of the evaluation to identify more effective strategies for parental involvement and to revise the policies, if necessary.