

Parental Involvement Policy

Early ISD

Statement of Purpose

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

The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) are available on the Texas Education Agency website, which can be accessed through the Early ISD website at <http://www.earlyisd.net>. The TEA link is on the district homepage. All students will be expected to work toward mastering these objectives. Our campus recognizes the fact that some students will need extra assistance to achieve their full potential. The extra assistance is available to all students through the Title I program and various other educational services offered through the district.

Early ISD intends to include parents in all aspects of the Title I program. Students will be given every opportunity for success through the development and enhancement of the home-school partnership.

Parent Involvement in Developing Policy

Early ISD's Site-Based District Improvement Team is comprised of parents, community members, administrators, teachers, and other staff members. This committee will meet annually to discuss the design and implementation of the Parent Involvement Policy.

Early ISD will actively recruit volunteers for the team through various avenues of publicity. Committee selections will produce a diverse group of stakeholders that represent an array of student populations served by the district. Meetings will be planned at convenient times and locations for all concerned parties. If a translator is needed, the district will arrange for one to be present.

Parent Involvement Activities to Improve Student Academic Achievement and School Performance

One of the primary functions of the team will be to identify ways that Early ISD can provide assistance and support to its campuses to create effective parent involvement. The administration will assist schools in understanding the requirements of Title I, Part

A and in planning for effective programs to help parents in improving academic achievement.

District assistance may also include the distribution of informational handouts which explain state academic standards, assessments, and curriculum. Early ISD will also promote and encourage staff development for employees on establishing effective relationships with parents as a means to increase academic achievement.

Building the Schools' and Parents' Capacity for Strong Parent Involvement

Early ISD will involve the team in identifying barriers to parent involvement and to provide parent involvement strategies. The district will serve as a guide and resource for each campus. The school will support a variety of parental involvement strategies as it strives to develop and maintain an optimum learning environment for all students.

Annual Title I Parent Meeting: Early ISD will hold an annual meeting to review Title I guidelines and services offered through the district. Copies of the district's current Parent Involvement Policy and the Early ISD Home-School Compact will be distributed at the meeting. Parents will be encouraged to become involved in revising and updating the policy as necessary, and parent volunteers will be recruited for the district and campus improvement teams. The meeting will be held at a convenient time and location; notice of the meeting will be provided through written invitations to parents and through public notices. If needed, a translator will be available to help with non-English speaking parents.

Home-School Compact: In accordance with Title I regulations, each campus will develop and annually update a home-school compact. This compact will explain how students, parents, and staff will share responsibility for student performance and success, and will enable them to do so. Members of the campus' SBDM Committee will be consulted in the design and implementation of the compact. All parents will be given a copy of the compact detailing the responsibilities that teachers, parents, and students have in helping students accomplish their goals. Students and parents are encouraged to discuss the contents of the compact. They are also encouraged to sign that they are in agreement with the compact and return them to the school; however, parents and/or students are not required to return the compacts to school.

Staff/Parent Communication: Parents will be informed of school activities through various avenues of communication throughout the school year. Newsletters, conferences, personal contacts, and written notices will be utilized to establish and maintain an open line of communication. Staff development will include strategies to promote effective parent involvement activities.

Cross-Program Coordination of Parent Involvement Activities

Parent Involvement strategies will be incorporated into Early ISD's curriculum and programs through the District Improvement Plan. Parent involvement will be a top priority and will be aligned with the entire educational program.

Early ISD will coordinate Title I Parent Involvement activities with other programs within the district to meet special needs (Head Start, Even Start, Public Preschool, PPCD, etc.).

Annual Evaluation

The district team will annually review and evaluate all aspects of the parent involvement program by distributing surveys and collecting data at all Title I campuses. Parent surveys including questions about the effectiveness of the program will be distributed and the results analyzed. Teacher surveys and teacher contact logs will be used to determine the number and kind of interaction between schools and parents. The district team will revise the district Parent Involvement Policy and Home-School Compact based on the results of this annual review.

Involving Parents in Activities of Title I Campuses

Early ISD will use Title I funds to provide school wide services to all students on the district's Title I campuses. Parents will be involved in a variety of strategies as the district strives to develop and maintain an optimum learning environment for all students. Parents may contribute through volunteer programs at Title I campuses, as well as by creating a supportive home atmosphere. The community may participate through an array of activities that promote student success. Each campus and its parents will develop and maintain specific parent involvement activities best suited to meet the individual needs of all stakeholders.