

JOHN F. KENNEDY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

Statement of Purpose

John F. Kennedy Elementary is committed to a lifelong learning process: *Honor, Opportunity, Learning and Achievement are First at West Oso ISD!* Family support for students through awareness of social values, academics and strengthening of family dynamics through family-school partnerships is critical to student success.

Development of Policy

An advisory committee consisting of parents, community members, teachers, facilitator/liaison, campus principal(s) and/or PTO Executive Board members was established. The committee met to discuss campus communication tools, evaluate the effectiveness of the campus parent survey, review the existing *Standards for Family Involvement* and develop a standardized policy. The advisory committee will continue to meet annually to review and revise the policy as needed.

The campus will follow the policy in accordance with the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*. The policy will be distributed to parents of students attending the campus(es).

Annual Meeting

John F. Kennedy Elementary will hold an annual meeting for Title I parents. The meeting will be held early in the fall semester. The purpose of the meeting is to provide parents with information regarding Title I services and the District and campus parental involvement policies. Parents will be encouraged to offer suggestions for any revisions to the District and Campus policies. The annual meeting will be held at a convenient time and location. Written notice will be provided with translations, if needed.

Title I Program Requirements

The District Title I, Part A Program will build school and family capacities to ensure effective involvement of families and to support a partnership to improve student academic achievement in the following areas:

- Provide opportunities to inform families of academic content standards and student achievement standards established by the State; and the Texas and District academic assessments through District and campus Title I events.
- Provide opportunities to inform families of the process for working with educators to monitor student progress.
- Provide opportunities for training and materials to help families work with their children through collaboration of District/campus staff.
- Provide professional development for campus staff regarding how to reach out to, communicate with and work with families as equal partners; the value and contributions of families; and how to implement and coordinate family programs and build ties between families and schools, by offering campus-specific sessions.
- Provide all Title I communication to families in a user- and language-friendly format to ensure that information related to the educational system is clear and uniform.
- Provide necessary coordination, technical assistance and other support to schools in planning and implementing effective family involvement activities.
- Improve student achievement and school performance by conducting monthly staff development sessions during the school year for Title I parent facilitators/liaisons.

School-Family Compact

According to Title I federal guidelines, each Title I campus must develop a *School-Family Compact*. The compact will:

- Be revised annually by staff and parents.
- Describe responsibilities of parents, students and school personnel to improve student performance.
- Describe the schools' responsibilities to provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment.
- Include ways in which parents shall be responsible for supporting student learning.
- Outline student responsibilities in support of education and character development.
- Address the importance of establishing ongoing communication between school and parents (i.e., conferences, progress reports and access to staff).
- Include the scheduling of parent/teacher conferences to examine the components of the compact to increase student achievement.

Matching Programs to the Needs of the Community

The community will be consulted in the design, development and implementation of the Title I Program. Parents will be invited to participate in workshops and events that are tailored to meet the needs of the community. Parent and student needs will be assessed through questionnaires and parental surveys, as well as a variety of other measures targeted at creating a successful school environment.

The district will send a parent survey annually in an effort to collect feedback and to design parent education programs to fit the needs of our school community. Ongoing feedback and input is welcome and considered at any time throughout the year (i.e., phone calls, letters and conferences) in an effort to ensure parent meetings and events are beneficial.

Staff/Family Communication

Parents will be informed of campus and district activities through various avenues of communication. Campus and district staff will engage in positive communication activities to build capacity with parents, students and community members.

Grade level newsletters and school wide calendars are distributed each six weeks. PTO meetings are held on the second Tuesday of most months throughout the school year. Awards assemblies and other school events are used as additional opportunities to communicate. Our school's website: www.westosoid.esc2.net is updated, as often as needed, in an effort to keep parents, students and the community informed about announcements, special events and available resources.

Evaluation

An annual meeting will be convened at the end of the school year to discuss and accumulate data through various collection tools. The John F. Kennedy Elementary Family Involvement Policy Committee will review the data and make appropriate revisions to the policy.

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