

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT POLICY
Gregorio Esparza Elementary School
NORTHSIDE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

If students are to be successful, their parents or guardians must be actively involved in their education.

Gregorio Esparza Elementary School developed this policy:

- to describe how we involve parents in the development of policy and the School-Parent Compact;
- to help parents assist their children achieve in school, and
- to make sure parents with limited English proficiency, disabilities and/or parents of migratory students can participate in their children's education.

This policy was developed with the assistance and approval of the parents of children participating in the Title I program, as well as administrators, teachers, counselors, social worker, and community members.

Engagement Policy

Throughout the year, we invite the parents of all children who participate in the Title I program to a series of meetings. Staff from Northside Compensatory Programs are invited to help in the presentation.

- Meetings are held on several different days and times, and parents have a choice of which to attend.
- We discuss Title I law, its requirements, and the rights and benefits to parents of children involved.
- We explain how parents can be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including contributing to this parental involvement policy.
- An annual review of this policy, including its effects on increasing the academic quality of this school, is conducted during the first and last SAT meetings of the year.
- Other opportunities for policy involvement on campus include monthly Coffee with the Principal and monthly Title I Committee meetings.

Engagement Program

We give parents of participating children timely information about our Title I programs, including:

- Reading
- Math
- Tutoring
- Enrichment
- Counseling
- Social Work Services
- Dual Language

We describe our curriculum, explain our expectations for students, and explain how we measure student performance. We explain how each individual child and our school as a whole are doing on state tests such as the STAAR, and other measures of performance such as the TPRI, TELPAS, and CogAT.

We hold regular monthly dialogues with parents, monthly Title I Committee meetings, and quarterly SAT meetings to respond to parent suggestions. Parents make suggestions and share experiences with other parents, and participate in decisions concerning services offered, program rules, school policies and procedures, and meetings times.

School-Parent Compact

A district model for the School-Parent Compact was developed jointly with parents of participating Title I students and explains how staff, parents, and the student will all share responsibility for each student's academic success. Our compact, based on the district model and written in May 2006, was developed jointly with parents and explains how staff, parents, and students will all share responsibility for each student's success. In 2008 we developed a bilingual version of the compact. Every year this document is updated.

Building Capacity for Engagement

It is part of Gregorio Esparza Elementary School's vision and mission to teach parents how to help their children learn. One way this is done is by explaining education laws. Parents are given information about the National Education Goals, Title I requirements, Texas content and performance standards such as the TEKS and STAAR Assessments at grade level parent meetings and at parent-teacher conferences.

Parent Training and Engagement

Parent Training opportunities include:

- Informative presentations are given to help parents know if a child is doing well, how parents can work with educators to help their children, and how they can be involved in decision-making about the education of their children.
- Materials and training are provided to help parents help their children, such as family literacy, family math, family science, counselor/social worker training programs for parents, other parent meetings, etc.
- Other opportunities include our Parent Resource Center and programs where parents learn about a variety of subjects and topics related to child rearing and child development.

Staff Training includes:

- the importance of involving parents as partners
- how to present programs for parents
- how to build ties between the home and school as well as how to conduct an effective parent conference

Parental engagement activities are coordinated through different programs available on our campus:

- Sci Project Based Learning
- VIP Program
- Reader's Response Program
- Public Preschool Programs
- Precious Minds
- Migrant Education Program, and other programs to the extent feasible and appropriate.

School-Business Partnerships are encouraged:

- Community-based organizations and businesses are given information about opportunities for working with parents
- Local businesses – Whataburger, McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Peter Piper, Jason's Deli, etc
- Local colleges and universities
- The Culebra Park Neighborhood Association

Accessibility. Participation and involvement of all parents is important.

Language

Information related to student achievement, school performance, school and parent programs, meetings and other opportunities for participation is sent home in English and Spanish. Standard information sent home in both languages includes this policy, School-Parent Compact, announcements, newsletters, report cards, school profiles, student test results, etc.

Information:

For parents of migrant students, we inform them of services (school supplies and uniforms) at the time of registration and provide follow up with our counselor and social workers.

We ensure the ability of parents with disabilities to participate by providing handicapped access to all buildings and classrooms where meetings are held, etc. Interpreters for the deaf and other adaptations are provided whenever needed.