

## **Parental Involvement Policy for Fisher Elementary School Northside Independent School District**

If students are to be successful, their parents or guardians must be actively involved in their education. Fisher Elementary School developed this policy to describe how we involve parents in the development of policy and the School-Parent Compact; to help parents to help their children achieve in school; and to make sure parents with limited English proficiency or disabilities and 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 1 program as well as Thomas Knapp, Lisa Morris, Romelia Lopez, Michelle Garcia, Leah Clark, Julie Bofenkamp, Carmen Enrico, Juan Flores, Brian Freeman, Priscilla Perkins.

**Policy Involvement.** Each year, usually in August / September, we invite the parents of all children who participate in the Title 1 program to a series of meetings (Parent Coffees). Meetings are held on several different days and times, and parents have a choice of which to attend. At the meetings we discuss Title 1 law, its requirements, and the rights and benefits to parents of children involved. Staff from Northside Compensatory Programs is invited to help in the presentation. We help the parents of Title 1 students to attend these meetings by providing child care and home visits concerning parental involvement. We explain how parents can be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of Title 1 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 at the first SAT meeting of the year, PTA and morning coffee's hosted by the administration. Other opportunities on campus for parent involvement on campus include membership opportunities in the PTA, SAT committee and Parents Assisting in Learning program.

**Program Involvement.** At this meeting, or at other times throughout the year, we give parents of participating children timely information about our Title 1 programs, including Fast Freddy, conferencing, mentoring and parent training. 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 TAKS, IRI's, CDBs, Benchmark tests, End of the Year Math tests and other measures of performance such as CoGAT.

We hold regular SAT meetings and parent coffee's to respond to parent suggestions, have parents make suggestions and share experiences with other parents, and participate in decisions concerning school programs and services. If the Schoolwide Program Plan is unsatisfactory to the parents, the school submits parents' comments to the District and revises the plan as advised by the District and/or SAT.

**School-Parent Compact.** A District model for the School-Parent Compact was developed jointly with parents of participating Title1 students and explains how parents,

school staff, and the student will all share responsibility for each student's academic success. Our compact, based on the District model and written August 2007, is attached.

**Building Capacity for Involvement.** It is part of Fisher Elementary School's role 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 Essential Knowledge and Skills, performance standards such as TAKS, and CoGAT.

**Parent Training and Involvement.** Presentations are done to help parents know if a child is doing well, how parents can work with educators to help their children, and how to be involved in decision-making about the education of their children. Materials and training are provided to help parents help their children, such as Academic Night, Newsletters and Webpages. Other activities include parent-training courses offered by the school counselors.

Training is also given to teachers and other staff members. School staff is taught the importance of involving parents, parents as partners, and programs for parents, and building ties between home and school. When possible, parents are involved in the development of this training.

Our school strives to coordinate parental involvement activities among the different programs available on our campus. Shared parental involvement activities are sponsored for Title 1, Pre-Kindergarten, Bilingual Education programs.

The development of school-business partnerships that include activities for parents is encouraged. Community-based organizations and businesses are given information about opportunities for working with parents. We are in the process of developing mentor programs.

**Accessibility.** Participation and involvement of all parents is important. Information related to student achievement, school performance, school and parent programs, meetings and other opportunities for participation is sent home in the home language whenever possible. Some of the standard information sent home in Spanish includes this policy, the School-Parent Compact, and State of Texas School Report Card, school report cards and various letters from the school nurse. For parents whose home language is other than English or Spanish, our school tries to accommodate as needed.

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

Date Issued: September 2012

Date Updated: September 2012

This policy complies with the Northside Independent School District's policies for parental involvement: EHBD (Legal) and EHBD (Local)