

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY FOR ZACHRY MIDDLE SCHOOL NORTHSIDE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 2018-19

If students are to be successful, their families must be actively involved in their education. H.B. Zachry Middle School developed this policy to describe how we involve families in the development of this policy and the School-Family-Student Compact; to help families help their children achieve in school; and to make sure families with limited English proficiency or disabilities and families of migratory students can participate in their children's education. This policy was developed jointly, and reviewed annually, with families and the FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

School-Family-Student Compact - The School-Family-Student Compact explains how school staff and families will share the responsibility for each student's academic success. The compact was developed jointly with families and the FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

Annual Title I Meeting - Each year we invite families to an Annual Title I Meeting. Notice is sent to every family through the campus newsletter, The Wolverine Wire, flyers, the call out system, and our marquee. Invitations in the "first day packets" are also utilized. Meetings are held on different days and times, and families have a choice of which to attend. At the meetings we discuss Title I law and requirements, the rights of families and students, benefits of programs offered, and other topics. We help the families to attend these meetings by providing six o'clock meetings, child care, and/or other assistance as needed.

Policy Involvement - Families can be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including contributing to the review of this Family Engagement Policy, the School-Family-Student Compact, and School Improvement Plan. If the School Improvement Plan is not satisfactory to families, their comments will be forwarded to the district office. Families may serve as members or provide input to the School Advisory Team (SAT), Family Engagement Committee (FEC), District Title I Advisory Council, and other district/campus committees. We help families to attend these meetings by providing six o'clock meetings, child care, and/or other assistance as needed.

Program Involvement - Throughout the year we give families timely information during our Open Houses, Family-Teacher Conferences, Student-Led Conferences, Family Nights, Academic Nights etc. We describe our curriculum and standards, share our expectations for students, explain how student performance is measured, and how to monitor student progress. We explain how each individual child and our school as a whole are doing on state tests and other measures of performance. Through the School Advisory Team (SAT), Family Engagement Committee (FEC), District Title I Advisory Council, and other district/campus committees we offer opportunities to respond to family suggestions, share experiences and concerns, and participate in decisions concerning services and programs offered at our school.

Building Capacity for Family Involvement - Activities to build family involvement are described throughout this policy. It is part of our role to teach families how to help their children learn and how to be involved in decision-making about the education of their children. We will also provide other reasonable support for family involvement activities as requested.

Family Training - Training and materials are provided during Family Nights, Academic Nights, Family/Child Workshops Program, etc. These presentations share information with families to help them work with their children to improve academic achievement.

Our school strives to coordinate and integrate family involvement activities among the different programs available on our campus. Shared family involvement activities are sponsored for Title I schools such as Learning Tree, Family Literacy Program, Family Involvement Programs, Families and Schools Together Program (FAST), Head Start, Migrant Education Program, Title III Bilingual/ESL, and Pre-K 4 SA.

The development of school-business partnerships that include activities for families is encouraged. Community-based organizations and businesses are given information about opportunities for working with families.

Staff Training - Training is also given to teachers and other staff members. All school staff views the District Parental and Family Involvement Video which emphasizes the importance of families as partners and the building of ties between home and school. When possible, families are involved in the development of this training.

Accessibility - Participation and involvement of all families is important. Information related to student achievement, school performance, school and family 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, School-Family-Student Compact, announcements, newsletters, report cards, school profiles, and student test results. For families whose home language is other than English or Spanish, we provide bilingual materials and translation services as needed. For families of migrant students, we provide the same as well as information services regarding immigration support services available to migrants. Interpreters for the deaf/hearing impaired and other adaptations are provided whenever needed. We ensure the ability of families with disabilities to participate by providing handicapped access to classrooms and buildings where meetings are held.

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