2022–2023 TITLE I, PART A PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Houston Independent School District (HISD) will implement the following Every Student Succeeds Act requirements:

1. Conduct a meaningful consultation with parents of participating children to implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents at all Title I, Part A schools.
2. Develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to parents of participating children the district's written Parent and Family Engagement Policy. The district will incorporate this policy into the district's plan.
3. Provide technical assistance for all Title I, Part A schools to develop jointly with parents the school's written Parent and Family Engagement Policy including the school-parent compact.
4. Provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist its Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
5. Support its Title I, Part A schools to build the schools' and parents' capacity for active parental involvement and promoting parenting skills and family literacy to improve academic achievement.
6. Coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies for the Title I, Part A program with parental involvement strategies under other programs when feasible.
7. Conduct with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Program in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The district will use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, the parental involvement policies.
8. Identify any barriers to greater participation by parents in activities of participating children at its Title I, Part A schools with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background.
9. Ensure that all parent notifications and school reports will be in an understandable and uniform format and to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand.

STATEMENT OF MISSON, VISION, AND BELIEFS

MISSION

The Board of Education's mission is to equitably educate the whole child so that every student graduates with the tools to reach their full potential.

VISION

Every child shall have equitable opportunities and equal access to an effective and personalized education in a nurturing and safe environment. Our students will graduate as critical thinkers and problem solvers; they will know and understand how to be successful in a global society.

BELIEFS

- We believe that equity is a/the lens through which all policy decisions are made.
- We believe that there should be no achievement gap among socio-economic groups or children of ethnic diversity.
- We believe that the district must meet the needs of the whole child, providing wraparound services and social and emotional supports.
- We believe our classrooms/schools should be safe, vibrant, joyful spaces where students are guaranteed access to a challenging and deep educational experience.
- We believe that instruction should be customized/personalized to meet the learning needs for each individual child, including students with disabilities, gifted and talented students, and English Language Learners, so they have the support and opportunity they need to flourish.
- We believe that recruitment and retention of qualified and effective personnel are the keys to enhancing the quality of education and increasing student achievement.
- We believe that the community has a right to transparent operations across the district in all schools, departments, and divisions.
- We believe that meaningful engagement with the community is important in all major decision-making.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN DEVELOPING THE POLICY

All school and district activities will promote and encourage parental involvement. The district will offer Parent Consultation Meetings to collaborate with parents and other stakeholders about the policy. Parent Consultation Meetings will consist of volunteers such as parents, guardians, Title I Campus Contacts or other campus staff members, administrators, members of the community and central office staff to update the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy. The goal is to have parent participation in the decision-making process regarding the Title I, Part A program.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACTS

A School-Parent Compact is an agreement that outlines how parents, staff, and students will share responsibility for improved academic achievement. Each school must share the responsibility with parents for high student academic performance by developing a School-Parent Compact cooperatively and collaboratively with parents.

Parents will receive the School-Parent Compact from their child's school with a list of responsibilities. Teachers, parents, and students will each have specific responsibilities for helping students achieve their goals. Student responsibilities may vary by grade level. Communication between parents and school personnel must be in the language parents understand.

The School-Parent Compact is strongly encouraged to be discussed at all school events. Per the United States Department of Education (USDE) statue, in elementary schools the School-Parent Compact shall be discussed, at least annually, at parent-teacher conferences as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement.

SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

The Houston Independent School District values parents as partners in preparing our students to succeed in college, career, and beyond. The Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Department is dedicated to building intentional partnerships to advance student achievement by promoting a welcoming environment, honoring families, and linking activities to learning. FACE offers many services to help all HISD schools improve their unique engagement programs. The services are designed to give school staff and faculty the tools they need to build relationships with parents, link family events to learning, address differences on their campuses, support parent advocacy, and share power with their communities.

STAFF-PARENT COMMUNICATION

For Title I, Part A campuses, communication with parents is important. To facilitate excellent communication between parent and school personnel, the school may utilize the following strategies: monthly newsletters, written notifications, phone calls, emails, social media engines and podcasts. Communication between parents and school personnel must be in the language parents understand. To better assist campus-parent communication, the district may provide trainings for school personnel on beneficial communication skills with parents.

ANNUAL MEETING FOR TITLE I, PART A PARENTS (TO BE HELD DISTRICTWIDE AND IN EACH SCHOOL)

An Annual Meeting for Title I, Part A parents will be held as a stand-alone campus meeting separate from Open House or any other school/parent meeting. The district will provide trainings for schools on Title I, Part A Section 1116, and best practices in conducting the Title I, Part A Annual Meetings where parents are informed on how funds are used on their child's campus for parental involvement activities. A flexible number of meetings must be offered throughout the school year. The district has mandated at least eight meetings a year. Four meetings in the Fall and four meetings in the Spring. Two of the meetings in the Fall will be the Fall Annual Title I Meeting. Two of the meetings in the Spring will be the Spring Annual Title I Meeting.

EVALUATION

In collaboration with parents, HISD will conduct an Annual Consultation Meeting to review the content and effectiveness of all federal programs, and parents will be asked for their input. The district will evaluate the Title I, Part A Parent and Family Engagement Program by collecting information from parent surveys. The parent survey results will measure any increase in parental involvement and identify any barriers to effective parental participation. Annually, HISD will review and revise, as necessary, the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy based on this annual review.

CONCLUSION

Everything we do as a district must be done alongside the community – from our efforts to transform schools to the way we engage with parents navigating the special education process. We recognize the need to streamline communications and build stronger relationships with parents and the community. We will create clear, easy pathways for parents to contact campus and district staff to gather information and address concerns. We will host listening sessions, build partnerships, and provide leadership development opportunities for parents across the district to ensure their voices inform and influence decision-making. Through our efforts, we will remain laser focused on providing "best-in-class" customer service to our community.