

## Parental Involvement Policy

**Nat Q. Henderson Elementary School** is committed to the education of the children in our community. We feel parent involvement is an essential piece in ensuring that our students are successful in school. We believe that when parents are more involved in the academic process, school becomes more of a priority for their children. **Nat Q. Henderson's Elementary School's motto is "Our Scholars Thrive in the Hornets Hive".**

This expression is not only intended to be utilized within our school but is something we hope resonates in our community. It is our mission to produce a community of life-long learners that continues to thrive once they leave Nat Q. It is our pledge to maintain a good line of communication from school to homes and our goal to provide ample opportunities for parental involvement throughout each school year.

Title I regulations require that each school served under Title I jointly develop with and distribute to parents of participating children, a written parental involvement policy agreed on by the parents that describes the requirements outlined in Title I law.

### **POLICY INVOLVEMENT**

**Nathaniel Q. Henderson will convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under this part and to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved;**

In the fall, Nat Q. Henderson will host a virtual Meet the Principal and Meet the Teachers. There will also be a (virtual) Open House held. Nathaniel Q. Henderson will introduce its school-wide Title I Program at which time parents are informed of school conferences, the SDMC Committee, the School-Parent Compact, and the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

This year we are required to host eight meetings. In the annual status notification meeting parents will be informed of the school's status and participation in the Title I program, requirements of the program and parents' rights. In the following meetings parents will learn that:

Nat Q. Henderson will offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or afternoon, and will work to ensure that the required school level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of the Title I program.

- *Parents are invited to participate in a variety of meetings and activities over the course of the school year. An Open House is held in September and again in January to provide parents the opportunity to formally visit their child's classroom to become better informed about grade level expectation and their student's academic progress.*
- *Formal trainings and workshops scheduled throughout the year are guided by our school wrap-around specialist. Due to the hectic and varying schedules of our school family, effort will be made to provide training opportunities to parents via resources from our school wrap-around specialist.*
- *Parents will be invited to participate in a parent-teacher conference at least twice a year to discuss their child's progress. Teachers may receive parents in the morning, during the school day and/or afterschool to accommodate as many reciprocating parents as possible.*

## **DESCRIPTION OF HOW SCHOOLS WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

- *Our school annually invites parents to participate in review and revision meetings to examine and discuss our School Improvement Plan and Parent Involvement Policy. In carrying out the Title I, Part A, parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in language parents understand.*
- *Provide parents of participating children timely information about programs under this part; descriptions and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet; and if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any suggestions as soon as practically possible.*

**Nathaniel Q. Henderson** will hold an annual meeting to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I, Part A programs, and to explain the Title I, Part A requirements and the right of parents to be involved in Title I, Part A programs. The school will convene the meeting at a time convenient for parents and will offer a flexible number of additional parental involvement meetings, such as in the morning or evening, so that as many parents as possible are able to attend. The school will invite all parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs to this meeting, and will encourage them to attend, by:

- School website
- Parent callouts
- Marquee Message
- Announcements sent home (paper)
- Virtual

The school will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

*Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—*

- (A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.*
- (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.*
- (C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.*
- (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.*

## **SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HIGH STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**

As a component of the school-level parental involvement policy, each school shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under this part a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement.

The education of a student is not only the responsibility of the teacher, but also of the parent and the child. For this reason, a Parent-Teacher---Student Compact has been

developed and is utilized in our school. This document serves as an agreement between all parties that they will adhere to certain duties and responsibilities to ensure the success of the student. It is reviewed and signed by all at the beginning of each school year. The signed compact is kept by the teacher and used in student and parent conferences to remind each participant of their responsibilities. These compacts are also used to motivate students and parents to become more involved in the educational process and to let parents know that they are equal partners in their child's learning. The teacher will provide assistance to parents of children served by the school, as appropriate, in understanding topics by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --

- *the state's academic content standards,*
- *the state's student academic achievement standards,*
- *the state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,*
- *the requirements of Part A,*
- *how to monitor their child's progress, and*
- *how to work with educators:*

## **BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT**

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, each school and local educational agency assisted under this part

- Shall provide assistance to the parents of children served by the school or local educational agency, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the state's academic content standards and state student academic achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, the requirements of this part, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children;
- Shall educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school;

Faculty and staff members will be cognizant of educational research on parent involvement. Parental input will be solicited throughout the year in meetings, through surveys and during one-on-one conferences. Information derived will be utilized by the school's administrative team, Title I contact, counselor and wrap-around specialist to strengthen the tie between school and home for the purpose of increasing student achievement. The Title I contact will work with the campus wrap-around specialist and school counselor in providing a multitude of opportunities for parents to become

involved in our school over the course of the year in order to take full advantage of the benefits that come with active parent involvement.

- Shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with community based early learning programs and conduct other activities, such as PSV, parent-school volunteers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children;
- Shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to extent practicable, in a language parents can understand.

Due to the volume of paper that is sent home each year from school to home, written information is purposefully and as compact and concise as possible. Nat Q. Henderson Elementary has made it a practice to send home school correspondences in English and Spanish to ensure all information related to our school is understandable.

**\*\*\*Note\*\*\***

*In carrying out the parental involvement requirements of this part, districts and schools, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents with children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents can understand.*

Parents of all students, regardless of English proficiency, mobility, or disability, are an important part of our learning community. All parents are afforded the opportunity to be involved in their child's school environment. For this reason, if a special need is identified that would help a parent to understand the educational process and the academic progress of his/her child more fully, assistance will be provided to that parent. This type support often comes in the form of interpreted school documents in a parent's primary language, having an interpreter on hand to translate important information at school wide meetings and events, working with an interpreter to provide translation in parent/teacher conferences, making available parent resource in our center that are in English and Spanish, participating in faculty and staff training to better understand the culture of the students served, providing easier accessibility to parents and/or students with disabilities, etc.

## DISCRETIONARY SCHOOL PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

Our school communicates with parents often the state's curricular and assessment expectations, school wide requirements in relation to the delivery of instruction, the techniques utilized to evaluate student work, and individual classroom rituals and routines pertinent to the academic success of our students.

- providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training.
- paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including childcare costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
- training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.
- arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children, arrange meetings with parents who are unable to attend conferences at school in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education;
- adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement.
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities.

This School Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by all involved participants.

This policy was adopted by the **Nathaniel O. Henderson Elementary School** on **September 25, 2020** and will be in effect for the period of 2020-2021. The school will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before **October 9, 2020**.

Danielle Williams

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*(Signature of Authorized Official)*

September 25, 2020

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*(Date)*

