

OUR PURPOSE

The El Paso Independent School District (EPISD) is committed to partnering with parents, students, the community and other stakeholders to improve student academic achievement and social-emotional development. The mission of EPISD is to ensure that every student graduates prepared for higher learning and careers to empower them as knowledgeable and engaged citizens, innovators, and drivers of a robust, bicultural economy. EPISD believes that parents play an extremely important role as their child's first teacher and are valued partners in the educational process. Parents will be included in appropriate decision-making opportunities to support student academic achievement and social-emotional development. EPISD welcomes partnership with parents in the form of regular, two-way, and meaningful communication focus on academic achievement and social-emotional development and support. Parents are highly encouraged to:

- Engage in two-way communication with school staff to support their child's academic success
- Stay informed about their child's academic progress by accessing the Parent Portal
- Participate in academic goal setting for their child
- Collaborate with school staff in supporting the social-emotional development of their child.
- Provide encouragement and support for their child as a student scholar

Every student will be provided equitable access to quality instruction and academic programming. The EPISD curriculum is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and includes objectives that must be taught at every grade level. Student learning is continuously monitored to identify support needs and differentiate instruction. EPISD will provide interventions to students that need additional academic support through the Title I, Part A program and other programs as appropriate.

CORE BELIEFS ABOUT PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

- All families have dreams for their children and want the best for them.
- All families have the capacity to support their children's learning.
- Parents, families and school staff are equal partners in a child's education.
- Responsibility for building partnerships between school and home rests primarily with school staff, especially school leaders.

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT REQUIREMENTS

The El Paso Independent School District (EPISD) will implement the following Every Student Succeeds Act as required:

- 1) Conduct a meaningful consultation with parents of participating children to implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents at all of its 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. EPISD will incorporate this policy into the District's plan.
- 3) Provide technical assistance for all of its 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) Collaborate with parents to conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and its program in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. EPISD 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.

PARENT AND FAMILY COLLABORATION IN DEVELOPING THE POLICY

All school and district activities will promote and encourage meaningful parent and family engagement. EPISD will conduct Family Focus Groups to collaborate with parents and other stakeholders about the policy. Family Focus Groups will consist of volunteers such as parents, guardians, campus parent engagement liaisons and/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 provide opportunities for parent and family participation in the decision-making process regarding the Title I, Part A program.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND COORDINATION

The purpose of capacity building is to facilitate sustained family engagement that is linked to academic and social-emotional learning. Capacity building activities and workshops (i.e. Back to School Basics, Family Literacy Series, Social Emotional Learning Parent Connection, Student-Led Conferences and Homework Help) will be provided to parents and families to increase academic achievement through districtwide and campus efforts. EPISD will coordinate these efforts and strategies with other federal and state programs as appropriate.

STAFF-PARENT/FAMILY COMMUNICATION

For Title I, Part A campuses, communication with parents and families is critical. To facilitate effective and timely communication between parents, families and school personnel, schools may utilize the following strategies: monthly newsletters, written notifications, phone calls, emails, social media applications and podcasts. Communication between parents, families and school personnel must be in the language parents understand. To better facilitate campus-parent/family communication, EPISD will provide training for school personnel on how to effectively communicate with parents.

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 will support students and families in establishing academic goals. 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. 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, as per the direction of the United States Department of Education.

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

The District will provide training for schools on Title I, Part A Section 1116 and best practices in conducting the Title I, Part A, annual meetings where parents and families are informed on how funds are used on their campus for parent and family engagement activities. Each school in the District must conduct an annual Title I Parent Meeting, separate from fall and/or spring Parent Teacher Conferences or any other school/parent meeting. The annual meeting must be conducted during the school day and after school, at times that are most convenient for parents.

TYPES OF PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

There are several ways in which parents and families may engage in their child's education. EPISD recognizes that parents are a child's first teachers and the values contributions that take place at home. Reading to children at home and talking with them about their education experiences and assignments are as important as volunteering at school and serving on advisory committees. Many types of parental involvement are needed in a school-home-community partnership to ensure that all children succeed. EPISD will support each Title I, Part A, school in designing meaningful ways for parents and families to be engaged in their child's education. EPISD also strongly encourages schools to solicit input from parents and families regarding topics that are of interest and reflective of their needs.

MATCHING PROGRAMS TO THE NEEDS OF PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Schools will conduct a variety of workshops and programs for parents and families to enhance the levels of engagement in their child's academic and social-emotional development. Parents and families will be notified about these opportunities through the schools. Parents may also contact the Family Engagement Department at (915) 230-2553, or their local school office at any time to express an interest in a particular type of workshop or to make other suggestions.

EVALUATION

In collaboration with parents, EPISD will conduct an annual evaluation of this policy to review the content and effectiveness of the family engagement program. Parent and family input will be critical in this process. Additionally, EPISD will evaluate the Title I, Part A Parent and Family Engagement Program by collecting information from a variety of parent and family surveys. The parent and family survey results will measure any increase in parental involvement and identify any barriers to effective parent and family participation. Based on parent and family feedback, the District will review and revise, as necessary, the Parent and Family Engagement Policy on the basis of this annual review.

CONCLUSION

EPISD is dedicated to creating the conditions for an effective home-school partnership at all schools. Parents and families are encouraged to share their time, talents and expertise to strengthen the partnership and contribute directly to the education of their children. It is only through partnership and shared responsibility that the mission of the District may be realized, and the community may thrive.