

Terrace Elementary Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2019-2020

Terrace Elementary, a Title I school, is committed to the partnership between home and school. This partnership plays a critical role in student achievement and success. The communication between school, students, parents, and community is essential. It is our mission to ensure high levels of learning for all in a community of respect and through personalized learning experiences. We envision a school community where everyone will be inspired to love learning and will be empowered to contribute to their community through empathy, knowledge, and creative problem solving. We believe that when parents are more involved in the academic process, school becomes more of a priority for their children. At Terrace, we cultivate a growth mindset where mistakes are seen as an opportunity to learn. We honor the growth, development and voice of every individual. We provide a safe environment that encourages inquiry, risk-taking and problem solving. We foster open communication and collaboration. We act on opportunities to serve.

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. Our policy was reviewed and revised by our Campus Improvement Team that includes parents on August 26, 2019 and October 11, 2019.

Terrace Elementary shall jointly develop with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy, agreed on by such parents, that shall describe the means for carrying out all requirements. Parents shall be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. Such policy shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.

- Our parent involvement and engagement policy is developed and revised annually by our Campus Improvement Team, which includes parents, community, and business representatives. We encourage additional input from all stakeholders and provide an input form each year with the policy. The policy is available in Spanish and Vietnamese. It is shared with parents during fall Parent Teacher conferences.

Terrace Elementary shall 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.

- The Principal hosts an annual Title I Parent Meeting in the evening to inform parents of the school's participation and explain the right of parents to be involved. This meeting is held on Back to School night so that many parents and families attend. In addition, the Principal gives parents an update on campus goals, curriculum information, and academic expectations.

Terrace Elementary shall offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, childcare, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement.

- Parents are invited to participate in a variety of meetings and activities over the course of the

school year. In August and September, we provide parents with the opportunity to formally visit their child's classroom to become better informed about grade level expectation and their student's academic progress. Parents are also informed of their child's academic progress during fall and spring conferences, progress reports, report cards, Skyward Family Access, and individual parent teacher meetings. Parent and family engagement events and meetings are offered at a variety of times throughout the day.

Terrace Elementary shall involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under this part, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the school-wide program plan (Campus Improvement Plan), except that if a school has in place a process for involving parents in the joint planning and design of the school's programs, the school may use that process, if such process includes an adequate representation of parents of participating children.

- We encourage parent and community involvement in the learning and growth of our students. Families can play a role in the planning and reviewing of all school programs through participation in CIT (Campus Improvement Team), PTA, and parent information sessions. Our school communicates with parents about curriculum 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. Terrace Elementary is committed to providing timely communication by way of the Timberwolf Chronicles, Peachjar flyers, call-outs, marquee, our campus website, the campus Facebook page, Twitter, parent meetings, parent/teacher communication platforms (Remind, Class Dojo, Seesaw) and parent/teacher conferences. Information is provided in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Weekly paper communication with parents is distributed every Thursday.

Terrace Elementary shall provide parents of participating children (a) timely information about programs under this part; (b) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and (c) 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 such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

- The Principal provides information to parents about the school's curriculum and assessment program, state accountability updates, and ways to support student success. The Principal provides opportunities for parents to inquire and provide feedback at this meeting and later in the year through a family survey. The school provides a structure called the Student Support Committee to assist students who may need additional support. A parent or teacher can request a meeting with the committee should they ever have a concern regarding their child's academics or behavior.

If the school-wide program plan (Campus Improvement Plan, CIP) is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, parents may submit comments about the plan when the school provides the plan to the local educational agency. Plans are submitted in the fall and are updated throughout the year as needed.

- A parental input cover letter is included with our Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Home School Compact. Parents are encouraged to share their ideas, questions, concerns, or input

on this form. Parents are also given an opportunity to submit comments or concerns at the annual Title I meeting or throughout the year via email or notification in the office.

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, Terrace Elementary shall (a) provide assistance to parents of children served by the school, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the challenging state academic 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; (b) help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement; (c) educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, 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; (d) to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children; (e) provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request.

- We work to involve and educate our parents and teachers to work together in support of our students. We coordinate resources and services with our counselors, Communities in Schools, and Community Youth Services. Our teachers receive professional development to support the academic and social emotional needs of our students. Parents are invited to workshops, trainings, and family events throughout the year in support of various topics ranging from literacy to cyber safety. We encourage all families to participate in our events and seek out input regarding topics that would be of interest and help to our parents.