



Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2020-2021

Mission

The mission of Duncanville ISD is to provide each student with the necessary skills to achieve lifelong success and contribute to a global society.

Motto

Duncanville ISD-Writing success stories, one student at a time.

Values

We believe students are our first priority.

We model personal integrity and ethical behavior.

We value and respect all students, staff, families and community members.

We provide a safe, nurturing environment to foster academic excellence and positive relationships.

We embrace continuous improvement, data driven decision making, and mutual accountability for organizational excellence.

We believe every staff member contributes to student success.

Statement of Purpose:

The Department of Family and Community Engagement was developed to provide parents and families of Duncanville ISD with district-wide resources and opportunities to support academic success through fostering meaningful relationships involving academic awareness. We believe that when families, schools, and the community work together to support and encourage students, academic success, self-confidence, and positive life choices will improve. The Parent and Family Community Engagement policy provides strategies to ensure The Every Student Succeeds Act¹ (ESSA) 2015 is actively pursued, as we aim to "write success stories, one student at a time".

Duncanville ISD will be governed by the following lawful definition of family and community engagement, and expects that Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Family and community engagement 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.

¹ SEC. 1116. [20 U.S.C. 6318] PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT.



Implementation of District Family and Community Engagement Components:

Central administration shall work in partnership with families and shall actively support schools and families to increase family engagement by:

A) Respecting parents and families as partners in the education of their children.

- All teachers and staff personnel will be educated with the assistance of parents, to see the value and utility of the contributions from parents/families. Training will also include how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, to coordinate and implement parent programs, and how to build ties between parents and the school.
- Families will be invited to participate in the review of the District Improvement Plan as well as the Campus Improvement Plan.
- Opportunities will be provided at least twice annually for parents to be included in parent and family engagement policy decisions including the development, evaluation, and review of the policy and Title I Program.
- The district policy is reviewed annually, discussed at the Family and Community Engagement Steering Committee meeting, during campus improvement plan meetings, and posted on the Title I and FACE website.
- Meetings will be held at convenient times and locations for maximum participation.

B) Ensuring the coordination and technical assistance to meet the needs of parents through various district and campus programs.

- The District Family and Community Engagement Coordinator will collaborate with administrators and campus FACE Liaisons to provide support, training, and assistance with building and promoting family engagement via monthly liaison meetings.
- Duncanville ISD will provide a selection of parenting resources to equip campuses with relevant topics to support parent education and engagement.
- Community non-profit organizations and businesses may be invited to family events to offer services or support as well as to partner with families.

C) Providing capacity building opportunities to ensure effective engagement of families and to support partnerships amongst schools, the community, and families.

- Title I campuses will hold at least one meeting annually to review Title I guidelines and services offered at the campus level.
 - The meeting will be publicized in a variety of ways, including websites, call-outs/email blasts, marquees, social media, and flyers sent home.
 - Meeting documents will be provided in English and Spanish.
 - A translator will be provided, to the extent practicable, for non-English speaking parents/caregivers.
- At least one scheduled parent conference will be held after the first marking period during which the school-parent compact will be described and explained, in addition to the grade level curriculum-TEKS, assessment instruments such as STAAR, and benchmarks of student progress during the first eight weeks of school. In addition to conferences scheduled on the campus calendar, conferences may be requested by a teacher or parent as needed.
- Parents will be provided with resources and trainings at the campus and district level to assist with strategies and best practices for helping students at home.
- Resources will be provided for home use such as textbooks, syllabus, or other relevant materials for completing assignments.
- Family workshops will be offered covering topics such as math literacy, ongoing parent feedback, parent literacy, parent conferences, college preparation, mental and behavioral health, and homework help.
- The district and campuses shall also provide assistance to families with understanding topics such as Texas' academic achievement standards, state and local assessments, how to monitor student progress, and how to work with educators to improve their child's achievement.
- Each Title I campus shall maintain a Parent Resource Center that contains technology and current resources that are readily available to support academics.



- For all building capacity events, campuses will maintain the following items: publicity and invitation to parents, sign-in sheets including name, position, and role; agendas for meetings and programs, and minutes of meetings or record of training event. Letters, newsletters, emails, electronic documents, and telephone logs will be maintained.

D) Collaborating with other departments/programs such as Bilingual Education, Career and Technology, Curriculum and Instruction, Early Childhood Programs, Special Education including Special Populations, Health Services, and Student Services to provide students and families with the most current information and skills focused on academics and life beyond school.

E) Conducting annual evaluations of the content and effectiveness of the family engagement policy to improve the academic quality of schools.

- Duncanville ISD will assess the needs of families and students using a variety of tools including surveys and questionnaires. Evaluations will gather feedback regarding:
 - barriers that may prevent greater participation such as being economically disadvantaged, disabled, or having limited English proficiency
 - communication efforts
 - content of the policy
 - effectiveness of the policy
- Findings from evaluations will be used at the beginning of the year by the district and campus to design strategies for more effective family engagement.
- A feedback option will be available on the district website regarding the family engagement plan, as well as ongoing feedback provided to district and campus leaders.

F) Involving parents and families in activities of Title I schools

- Duncanville ISD will create a safe, positive and family-friendly environment that promotes family engagement.
- Campus office staff will follow the DISD standards of customer service, which outlines greeting, listening, responding, and communicating with stakeholders.
- Each Title I campus will have a Family and Community Engagement Liaisons available to enhance family relations and provide opportunities for parents to connect to the learning environment.
- All parent and family events will be communicated in English and Spanish, or in a language families can understand to the extent possible. Translators or translation devices will be provided as needed for Spanish speaking families.
- Notification of events will be provided well in advance, no less than one week, so that families can plan accordingly.
- Activities will be offered at various times including days, evening, and on weekends so that families may coordinate schedules to attend sessions.
- Childcare and transportation will be provided to the extent practicable in order for parents to attend family engagement events.

With strategies outlined in the Parent and Family Engagement Policy along with coordination of all departments and campuses, Duncanville ISD strives to provide meaningful relationships with all families to enhance academic achievement.