

Rockdale ISD Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2021-2022

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Rockdale ISD agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

1. The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
2. Consistent with section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
3. The school district will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
4. In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools 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 a language parents understand.
5. The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:
 - a. *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.*

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The Rockdale ISD will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - a. *An annual meeting will be held with parent representatives from every campus invited to attend.*
 - b. *Those in attendance will review past and current policies for validity and relevance, providing guidance to the district parent involvement coordinator in development of future policies and strategies involving parents.*
 - c. *Input provided during all District Education Council meetings will be documented and included in the RISD Parent and Family Engagement Policy that will be approved by the DEC each May*
2. The Rockdale ISD will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - a. *An annual meeting will be held with parent representatives from every campus invited to attend.*

- b. *Those in attendance will review past and current policies for validity and relevance, providing guidance to the district parent involvement coordinator in development of future policies and strategies involving parents.*
 - c. *Meetings will be advertised in the newspaper, on the radio, and through the RISD notification system.*
 - d. *Follow-up meetings may be held if necessary to review revised policy and make any corrections/additions.*
 - e. *Input documents will be provided at all District Education Council meetings for members to share thoughts and concerns about topics discussed.*
 - f. *Updates will be made on the district website regarding major financial and operational developments.*
3. The Rockdale ISD will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
- a. *The RISD School Messenger notification system is used as a means of communicating with parents and/or stakeholders about upcoming events and activities. Communications will also be sent using district social media such as Facebook and Twitter. Additionally, board of education agendas and the RISD website are utilized as a means of informing parents about school programs and student achievement.*
 - b. *Each Campus Education Committee and the District Education Committee will have active parents as members and will encourage them to participate in all meetings. The DEC and CECs will discuss parental involvement activities that will then be shared with the stakeholders involved in developing the parental involvement policy.*
 - c. *The District School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) will be made up of a majority of parents including a parent as co-chair. The SHAC committee will make recommendations.*
 - d. *Representatives from each campus will be present at each PTO meeting and campuses will work cooperatively with the campus PTO liaisons to address campus and district needs.*
 - e. *Community Relations Director will help by advertising meetings, speaking to parents, and providing assistance to campuses as needed.*
4. The Rockdale ISD will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: AfterSchool Centers on Education (ACE); Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO); Community Partnerships by:
- a. *Developing campus volunteer programs and allow volunteers to serve as mentors and support to students at all campuses.*
 - b. *Providing opportunities for parents to participate in afterschool activities and community service events.*
 - c. *Providing community activities for families through organizations such as the PTO and Christmas Round-Up.*
 - d. *Working with community groups like the Master Gardeners, Rotary Club, Lions Club, Rockdale Garden Club, Ministerial Alliance, Earth Day, and MARC Center to provide educational opportunities for students.*
 - e. *Publicize campus and district events at community and school functions to make sure parents are aware.*
 - f. *Post volunteer opportunities on the district webpage.*
5. The Rockdale ISD will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

- a. *Parents will be asked to participate in a parent involvement survey each year to guide future policy decisions.*
 - b. *Periodically throughout the school year, an evaluation tool will be distributed to allow parent provide feedback. The district will also analyze parental involvement data gathered by the schools and use that information to improve this policy*
 - c. *Utilize parental input and feedback from various campus and district committees.*
6. The Rockdale ISD will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:
- a. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, 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:
 - *Campuses will provide annual meetings to provide information and support to parents for programs and activities such as Gifted and Talented, Dyslexia, STAAR, ESSA, as well as others based on campus need.*
 - *Annual meetings will be held in coordination with other events of interest to parents to encourage participation and make it more convenient for parents.*
 - *Campuses will provide opportunities for parents to visit and discuss student expectations and progress such as Parent-Teacher Conference Days, Meet the Teacher Night, Open House, Family Nights.*
 - *Campuses will provide adequate opportunities for all parents to meet with teachers during conferences at designated periods each semester.*
 - *All district and campus staff will implement a 24 hour response policy for parent communication.*
 - *Provide links on the website for campus organizations to post schedules and special events.*
 - *Use the Skyward Student management system that allows parents to see student grades and attendance online and also includes an e-mail link directly to the teacher if there are any questions or concerns.*
 - *Provide additional opportunities to participate in school activities: family events during the school day and after school, designated parent days throughout the school year, cultural events, volunteer and mentoring opportunities.*
 - *Provide orientation opportunities for parents to support transition through grades and when introducing new opportunities.*
7. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:
- a. *Each year, the student, parent/guardian, teacher, and principal sign the parent compact to signify that they each commit to uphold their responsibilities for improving the student's academic achievement. The responsibilities for each party are delineated in the School- Parent Compact. At parent/teacher conferences, teachers will have the School-Parent Compacts available for review with the parent(s)/guardian(s) to remind them of what they promised to do to help the student achieve academic progress. Students are also reminded of their responsibilities under this compact. Principals remind teachers of their responsibilities under this compact at their formative and summative evaluations.*
 - b. *The district will provide training for parents in the use of district technology resources such as the RISD website and parent portals in Skyward. These trainings will be provided as stand-*

- alone sessions and during campus events such as Family Nights and Open House.*
- c. *Keep campus and teacher webpages current; provide details for upcoming events or deadlines. Much of this information on upcoming events and deadlines will also be shared using campus and district social media.*
8. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:
 - a. *District Mentoring Program*
 - b. *In Service Day Programs*
 - c. *New Teacher Orientations*
 - d. *District Professional Development Plan*
 - e. *Administrative Leadership Meetings*
 9. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent- programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:
 - a. *The district and campuses will provide school and/or classroom newsletters, school and classroom web sites, phone calls, home visits, and reporting of school activities through local newspaper and radio announcements/interviews, and district and campus social media.*
 - b. *Communication regarding initiatives or projects will be concise and will include regular updates.*
 - c. *School Messenger messages will be sent in Spanish as well as English.*
 - d. *Translators will be available at Parent-Teacher Conference Days, district level parent meetings, ARD meetings, and for individual teacher conferences as needed.*
 - e. *Campuses and district will provide opportunities for parents to complete forms online when possible. Elimination of multiple documentation entries will be emphasized when available.*
 - f. *The Rockdale ISD Translation Plan has been developed and approved by the District Education Council and is available on the district website as well as at each district and campus office.*

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PART III. ADOPTION

This District wide 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 meeting agendas, sign-in sheets, and minutes.

This policy was reviewed and approved by the Rockdale ISD District Education Council (DEC) at the May 10, 2021 meeting. The school district will make this policy available to all parents on the district website on or before the beginning of the school year.