



MIDLOTHIAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Statement of Purpose

Midlothian ISD is dedicated to providing a quality education for every student in our district. To accomplish this objective, the district will develop and maintain partnerships with parents/caregivers, patrons, and community members; moreover, the district will involve parents/caregivers in all aspects of the various local, state, and federal programs offered in Midlothian schools. The district believes that establishing and maintaining open lines of communication will expand and enhance learning opportunities and create the best learning environment for every child.

Parent and Family Engagement In Policy Development

The Midlothian ISD Site Based Decision Making (SBDM) Committee is composed of parents, members of the community, teachers, the school principal, and the district superintendent. This committee will discuss the design and implementation of the Midlothian ISD Parent Involvement Policy.

The SBDM Committee will actively recruit volunteers for the advisory committee through various avenues of publicity. Committee selections will produce a diverse parent population that will include all student groups serviced by the district; Hispanic parents will be involved and the committee will arrange for translators to help with communications. Meetings will be planned at convenient times and locations for all members of the committee.

Annual Meeting for Title I Parents/Caregivers

Midlothian ISD uses Title I funds to provide services for all eligible students. Midlothian ISD will hold at least one meeting annually to review Title I guidelines and services offered through the district. Copies of the district's current Parent Involvement Policy and the Midlothian ISD Parent-Student Compact will be distributed prior to or at the meeting. Parents will be encouraged to become involved in the revising and updating of the policy as necessary and parent volunteers will be recruited for the various district committee appointments.

The meeting will be held at a convenient time and location; notice of the meeting will be provided through written invitations to parents/caregivers and through public notices. Translators will be available to help with Non-English speaking parents/caregivers.

Title III Parent, Family & Community Engagement

Midlothian ISD uses Title III funds to provide services to best support the unique needs of emergent bilingual or English learner students. Midlothian ISD will hold at least one parent, family, and community engagement activity each school year.

These engagement activities will be geared specifically to the needs of the parents, families and community of our emergent bilingual students. These activities will be held at a convenient time and location; notice of the meeting will be provided through written invitations to parents/caregivers and through public notices. Translators will be available to help with Non-English speaking parents/caregivers.

Parent-Student Compacts

In accordance with Title I regulations, each Title I school will be required to develop and annually update a parent-student compact. This compact will provide an outline to enable the school and parents/caregivers to share responsibility for student performance and success. This compact explains how students, parents/caregivers, and staff will share responsibility for promoting student achievement.

The compacts are designed so that both the student and his/her parents can sign the compact. Students and parents are encouraged to discuss the contents of the compact; they are also encouraged to sign that they are in agreement with the compact and return them to the school. NOTE: Parents and/or students are not required to return the compacts to the school.

Parental Involvement Opportunities

Midlothian ISD will support many varied ways of parental involvement as it strives to develop and maintain an optimum learning environment for all students:

- Spanish translators will be provided for parents when needed.
- Information will be provided in Spanish when needed.
- Parents may contribute through volunteer programs.
- Parents may contribute by creating a supportive home environment.
- Parents are invited to participate in parent-teacher conferences.
- Parents are invited to help plan and conduct parties and field trips.
- Parents may participate by attending school meetings (Title I, planning sessions, student programs).
- Parents are invited to serve on committees.
- Parents serve on the Student Handbook Review Committee.
- Parents serve on the Employee Handbook Review Committee.
- Parents are surveyed to get their input about school.
- Parents are invited to participate in “retreats” and planning meetings.
- Parents are invited to eat meals with their children.

Staff and Parent Communication

Parents/caregivers will be informed of school activities through various avenues of communication throughout the school year; they will be consulted in the design, development and implementation of the Title I program. Parents will be invited to participate in workshops and staff development programs will be tailored to meet the unique student and parental needs of the community.

Newsletters, teacher notes, the school marquee, conferences, personal contacts, phone calls and written notices will be used to establish and maintain open lines of communication with parents/caregivers.

Midlothian ISD staff members will be trained in positive communication activities as well as effective ways to work with parents, students, and members of the community. Midlothian ISD staff will maintain a record of parent contacts throughout the school year.

At the beginning of each year, each teacher will distribute the learning goals and objectives to parents of each of their students. All students will be expected to work toward mastering these goals and objectives. Midlothian ISD recognizes the fact that some students will need modifications, accommodations, and/or extra assistance to achieve their full potential; these will be provided to students through the Title I Program and/or other educational services offered throughout the district or through district contacts.

Evaluation

The SBDM committee will review and evaluate all aspects of the parent involvement program. Parent surveys including questions about the effectiveness of the program will be distributed and the results tabulated. Teacher surveys and teacher contact records will be used to determine the number and kind of interaction between schools and parents. The SBDM Committee will revise the district Parent Involvement Policy based on the results of this annual review.