

## Hillsdale Community Schools Parent and Family Engagement Plan

The Board of Education recognizes and values parents and families as children's first teachers and decision-makers in education. The Board believes that student learning is more likely to occur when there is an effective partnership between the school and the student's parents and family. Such a partnership between the home and school and greater involvement of parents and family members in the education of their children generally result in higher academic achievement, improved student behavior, and reduced absenteeism.

Family engagement is a collaborative relationship between families, educators, providers, and partners to support and improve the learning, development and health of every learner. The principles of family engagement include: relationships as the cornerstone; positive learning environments; efforts tailored to address all families, so all learners are successful; purposeful and intentional efforts that clearly identify learner outcomes; and engaging and supporting families as partners in their child's education.

Each school eligible for supplemental supports and services through Title I shall conduct an annual meeting which includes information for parents on the Title I requirements and their right to be involved. This may occur at Back to School Open House Events, Family Engagement Events, and/or other events made available for all students and parents. Meetings intended to provide this information are to be offered at times convenient for parents and if needed, transportation, child care, virtual and/or phone sessions can be arranged upon request.

Parent involvement is wanted and encouraged in the development of the school improvement plans and Title I Program development in the following ways:

- Parents are invited to help develop the plan during annual orientation events, school open house events, parent/teacher conferences and through online surveys.

Provide parents with information regarding the school programs in the following ways:

- PowerSchool gives up to date information regarding their students performance;
- Parents and teachers meet at Parent Teacher Conferences: at least two (2) times each year;
- Utilize the Educational Development Plan process to bring the student, parents, and instructional staff together for collaboration.

Provide parents information about the school's curriculum, assessments, and proficiency level expectations in the following ways:

- These are provided at parent/teacher conferences;
- The curriculum is available and accessible for students and parents 24/7 online;
- Parents are issued accounts for PowerSchool where student progress and achievement is available 24/7.

Provide parents opportunities to share suggestions, participate in decision making, and respond to any suggestions in the following ways:

- PowerSchool gives up to date information regarding their students performance;
- Parents and teachers meet at Parent Teacher Conferences;
- Utilize the Educational Development Plan process to bring the student, parents, and instructional staff together for collaboration.

If parents are not satisfied with the school improvement plan or programs, provide opportunities to make comments by:

- Parents may submit feedback on the district website (24/7/365), parent/teacher conferences, or to the administration or staff so that comments may be included on the plan.

Update and evaluate the School-Parent Compact in coordination with school staff, students and parents.

The Parent/School Compact will be shared annually at Parent/Teacher conferences each fall. This is an opportunity for the parents and the teacher to share ways in which they can jointly support the student's learning at home, work, and school.

Student progress is reported to parents in several different ways at a variety of times throughout the school year including:

- Parent/Teacher conferences;
- Individual student/parent meetings with Teachers;
- PowerSchool is available to parents to gather up to date information regarding their child's progress.

Ensure parents have access to communicate with Teachers about their student's education in a variety of ways including:

- All teachers have a phone in their classroom and email account;
- Parents may also use written or oral communication;
- The school office uses an alert system to call parents about either school-wide and/or specific program activities;
- Volunteer forms are available in the office for parents to complete so that they may volunteer in the school during school hours.

Ensure regular two-way communication between Teachers and families by:

- All teachers have a phone in their classroom and email account;
- Parents may use written or oral communication;
- The school office uses an alert system to call parents about either school-wide or class-wide activities. Parents can leave comments or questions about the call.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled 3x a year.

Share the State's content expectations with parents and the state's annual assessments (MSTEP/PSAT/SAT) with parents, and provide information on how parents can monitor their child's progress using some/all of the following:

- Individual performance reports;
- Quarterly grade report cards;
- Daily progress monitoring of student performance through the online curriculum portal for both parents and students;

Provide parents with appropriate materials and offer training in our school to enable them to support their child's academic progress. These include:

- Individualized Learning Plans - Progress Planning/Roadmap;
- Educational Development Plans - Exit Goals

The District will engage staff in training on effective ways to increase parent engagement.

Coordinate with other groups/programs for parent involvement includes:

- Elementary PTO
- Athletic Booster Club
- Band Booster Club
- Volunteer Programs

Share information with parents in a language and format they can understand.

- Provide alternative language formats as needed.

Provide parents with other reasonable support such as:

- Online survey to gather data regarding how the district can better involve parents
- The staff at the school is sensitive to literacy levels of parents and provides help filling out forms and reading.

Provide opportunities for full parent participation:

- The school is fully handicapped accessible;

- Virtual participation is available for many events/programs;
- Transportation services or reimbursement for self-transport is made available as needed;
- Multiple forms of communication are available, not just written, to allow our parents with disabilities the opportunity to participate.