



BROWNSVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

2024-2025 PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Brownsville Independent School District (BISD) is committed to providing quality education to every student in the district. Partnerships with parents and the community are essential to this goal as neither home nor school can achieve this goal independently. Everyone gains if school and home work together to promote high student achievement. Parents play an important role as children's first teacher and their support is critical to their children's success. BISD intends to include parents in all aspects of the district's Title I-A programs to create a school-home partnership that will promote student success. Grade level goals for all children in BISD will be distributed to parents with the expectation that *all* students will work toward these goals. BISD recognizes that some students may need the extra assistance of Title I-A programs to reach these goals and is committed to providing that support.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT IN DEVELOPING AND REVISING THE POLICY

A District Parent Advisory Committee consisting of BISD parents, teachers, principals and community members developed the district's Parent and Family Engagement Policy. The Parent and Family Engagement Department will annually form an Advisory Committee to review the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and to revise it, as necessary. Special attention will be given to recruiting parent volunteers of children served in the Title I-A programs, with a goal of having at least two parents of each campus on the committee. The Title I-A Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be posted on each campus and district websites.

ANNUAL TITLE I-A CAMPUS PARENT MEETING

The Parent and Family Engagement Department will ensure that each campus will hold annual Title I meetings for parents. These meetings will be held during the fall semester. The purpose of this meeting is to provide parents with information regarding Title I-A guidelines and services offered utilizing Title I-A funds as stated in the current Parent and Family Engagement Policy. The Parent and Family Engagement Policy will also be distributed to parents. Parents will be given the opportunity to offer their suggestions for any revisions to the policy. Parents may also volunteer to serve on either the district-wide or individual school's advisory committee or both. The annual Title I-A meeting will be held at flexible times to increase the opportunity for parental participation. English and Spanish translation will be available. Written notices in both languages will be sent to parents notifying them of the dates and times of the meetings. Parent Trainers, and Parent Liaisons will also contact parents regarding the meetings through various methods of communication; phone, email, text and School Messenger.

SCHOOL-PARENT-STUDENT COMPACT

According to Title I-A regulations, each campus must share responsibility with parents for high student achievement by jointly developing a School-Parent-Student Compact. These compacts must outline the responsibilities of parents, staff, and students for promoting high student performance. Parents on each school's Advisory Committee must be involved in the development, reviewing and revising of the S-P-S Compact. Students' responsibilities may vary by grade level. All elementary campuses will conduct a Parent-Teacher conference to discuss the responsibilities stated for all stakeholders in the S-P-S Compact. All parents will receive the compact from their child's school stating the responsibilities that teachers, parents, and students have to achieve high academic goals. Parents are urged to discuss the compact with their children before they and their children sign the document. The School-Parent-Student Compact will be posted on each campus website.

TYPES OF FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

BISD will provide opportunities for parent engagement to become involved in their children's education. BISD values both the at-home contributions of parents and those that take place at the school or in the community. Reading to children at home and talking with them at family meals are as important as volunteering at school and serving in the advisory committees. Many types of family engagement are needed in school-home-community partnership to help all children succeed. In alignment with BISD's philosophy and mission, each Campus Improvement Plan (CIP) must include the family engagement component. All parent and community volunteers must comply with the district policy regarding volunteer requirements and State of Texas background checks.

ADAPT PROGRAMS TO THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY

Each year BISD will assess the needs of parents and children in the community through a variety of measures, including parent surveys, so that Title I programs can be tailored to meet those needs. Workshops and other programs will be available to address the expressed needs. Parents will be notified of these opportunities by the individual school. Parents may also call the Parent and Family Engagement Department or the individual school office to express an interest in a workshop, topic or to make recommendations about the program.

STAFF-PARENT COMMUNICATION

BISD's Parent and Family Engagement Department informs parents of monthly activities and current issues through various means of communication including; announcements, telephone calls, conferences, department website, emails, texts, face to face or virtual meetings. Communication with parents should also include a school newsletter distributed by each school at least four times a year. Notices sent home should be in a language parents can understand. Parents are encouraged to take the initiative in calling their child's teacher or campus administrator when they have a concern. Staff should receive training on techniques to improve home-school communication. Parents may participate in this training.

EVALUATION

The district-wide Committees, whose members include parents of special populations students, will participate in the process of school review and improvement; the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement programs through an annual evaluation. The evaluation will include an assessment of overall increases in family engagement and barriers to parental participation that still need to be overcome. BISD will revise its Parent and Family Engagement Policy on the basis of this annual review.