

Garwood Elementary School Parent Engagement Policy

Statement of Purpose

Garwood Elementary School is committed to providing quality education to every student in the school. Partnerships with parents, family members, 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 and family members play an important role as their children's first teachers, and their support is critical to their children's success. Garwood Elementary School intends to include parents and family members in all aspects of the school's Title I programs to create a school-home partnership that will promote student success. Garwood Elementary School believes that establishing and maintaining open lines of communication will expand and enhance learning opportunities and create the best learning environment for every child. Garwood Elementary School is a schoolwide Title I campus which allows all students the opportunity to benefit from the programs funded by Title I.

Annual Meeting

Garwood Elementary School will hold an annual meeting in the fall semester at a convenient time to which all parents will be invited and encouraged to attend. The purpose of this meeting is to inform parents of Garwood Elementary School participation in Title I, the Title I requirements, and the right of parents to be involved.

Opportunities for Parent/Family Involvement

Parents/Families can become involved in their children's education in various ways. Garwood Elementary School values both the at-home contributions of parents/families and those that take place at the school or in the community. Reading to children at home and talking with them at family meals or other family outings are as important as volunteering at school and serving on advisory committees. Many types of parent and family engagement are needed in school-home-community partnerships to help all children succeed. Garwood Elementary School will offer many opportunities for parent and family engagement in the school including, but not limited to the following:

- Invite parents/families to contribute through volunteer programs such as classroom parents or fieldtrip chaperones;
- Invite parents to participate in parent-teacher conferences;
- Invite parents/families to help plan and conduct parties;
- Invite parents/families to participate by attending school meetings at a variety of times;
- Invite parents/families to serve on committees;
- Survey parents/families to get their input about school;
- Invite parents/families to eat meals with their children at school;
- Invite parents/families to join us for school programs;
- Invite parents/families to participate in school activities, classroom activities, and field trips;
- Invite parents/families to join and participate in Garwood Association of Parent activities

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Parent Communication

Parents will receive timely information about school activities through various avenues of communication throughout the school year. Garwood Elementary School will ensure that information related to school and parent/family programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to parents/families in a format and, to the Garwood Elementary School extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. Websites, newsletters, teacher notes, the school marquee, conferences, personal contacts, phone calls/text messages, emails, and written notices will be used to establish and maintain open lines of communication with parents. In some classrooms, parents will receive daily communication through student daily folders. Garwood Elementary School will offer a flexible number of meetings to parents, such as morning and evening, to accommodate the needs of the parents in order to encourage full parent involvement with their student's academic success. These meetings will be in the form of Parent-Teacher conferences, Title I Annual Meeting, open house and Garwood Association of Parents meetings. At these meetings and at other times when requested, parents/families will have opportunities to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children. Garwood Elementary School will welcome and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible. Whenever requested and at meetings such as those described above, parents will be informed of the Garwood Elementary School curriculum as established by the TEKS Resource System and any instructional materials utilized by teachers. They will also be provided a description of the forms of academic assessment used at Garwood Elementary School which include teachers administering benchmarks at various times throughout the school year to monitor student performance and to use the data to address instructional interventions and needs. Teachers and staff will provide parents with assistance in how to monitor their children's progress and how to work with the teachers to improve the achievement of their children. Students in third grade will be assessed through state assessment, the STAAR test, during the year, and parents will be notified of those testing days, requirements, and the achievement level of their students on the state academic standards.

Coordinate Services

Garwood Elementary School will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other federal, state, and local programs by considering these strategies in the needs assessment of the campus and if necessary, integrating strategies into the Campus Improvement Plan.

Evaluation and Response

Parents and families will be asked for their input on the content and effectiveness of the Title I parent and family engagement programs through an annual evaluation of the Title I program conducted by Garwood Elementary School. Garwood Elementary School will assess the needs of parents and children in the school community using a variety of tools including a survey or questionnaire and including parent suggestions and/or requests. The Garwood Elementary School Site-Based Decision Making Committee which is comprised of school personnel, parents, and community members will meet throughout the year, as necessary, using these findings for the planning, review, and improvement of the Garwood Elementary School Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the Campus Improvement Plan including any reasonable support for parental involvement activities requested by parents. Rice C.I.S.D and Garwood Elementary School will welcome and receive at any time recommendations about the Title I program. If the Campus Improvement Plan is not satisfactory to parents, Garwood Elementary School

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will submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the district. If necessary, workshops or other training will be made available to educators and parents to address these identified needs. Parents will be notified about materials and training provided to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as in literacy and technology. OBP, with assistance from the district, will provide training that educates teachers, specialized instruction support personnel, principals and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents/families, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between the parents and the school.