

**RICE CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL DISTRICT PARENT & FAMILY  
ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

Rice CISD is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child in this district. Parent support is critical to a child's educational success. To this end, we want to establish partnerships with parents and the community. RCISD is dedicated to the on-going process of building schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental engagement.

**PART I**      **GENERAL EXPECTATIONS AND OBJECTIVES**

Rice CISD agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- **Rice CISD will** provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student achievement and school performance, including computer applications that promote communication between school and home.
- **Rice CISD will** facilitate parent involvement in order to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education.
- **Rice CISD will** coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant federal, state, and local laws and programs including migrant, bilingual, and special education parent meetings.

**PART II**      **BUILDING CAPACITY FOR STRONG PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

- In order to build a home and school partnership, Rice CISD schools will conduct an annual Title I, Part A meeting where parents will be involved in the joint development of the Title I program plan, including the Parent & Family Engagement Policy, and be given an opportunity to become involved with their child's education. An annual Title I, Part A, parent meeting will be held before the end of the first nine weeks of school.
- Parent meetings and conferences will be offered at different times of the day to accommodate the needs of parents.
- Communications with parents will be in a format and a language that parents can understand.
- Campuses will keep websites and other social media outlets up-to-date to assure effective communication.
- Responsive intervention will be offered for students needing extra assistance.

- School personnel will practice positive, effective home to school communications. Barring unforeseen circumstances, school personnel will respond to parent communication with a return phone call or e-mail within one school day from the time the communication was received.
- A description and explanation of the curriculum used, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress (benchmarks), and expected proficiency levels will be provided to parents.
- Assistance to parents in understanding the state’s academic content standards, known as the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), and the state student achievement standards based on the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR), will be communicated through state resources such as the Texas Assessment Data Portal.
- A school-parent compact will be disseminated, designed by parents and school staff, outlining how parents, the entire campus staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improvement in student academic achievement.
- Elementary campuses will provide a minimum of one scheduled parent conference where the school-parent compact will be discussed as it relates to the progress of the student, as well as the expectations for the grade level school curriculum, test information, and any other concerns the teacher or parent may have.
- Parents will have the opportunity to help review, plan for and make suggestions to improve the Title I program, as well as the Parental & Family Engagement Policy and the school-parent compact.
- Parents will be given opportunities to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to their child’s education. Parents may request a meeting with the school staff by phone or email.
- District and school information will be sent to parents in a timely manner. Information will be given to parents through school newsletters, PTA, websites, and from the classroom teacher. In addition, the school marquees will be used to inform parents of dates of programs, meetings and activities.
- Parents will be provided with materials and specific training to help them work with their children to improve achievement.
- Title I funds may be used to pay for reasonable and necessary expenses to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.

### **PART III    EVALUATION**

- With the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, Rice CISD will conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served under this part, including identifying—

- Barriers to greater participation by parents/families in activities authorized by this section (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background);
- The needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and
- Strategies to support successful school and family interactions;
- Rice CISD will use the findings of such evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental and family engagement, and to revise, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policies described in this section.
- The RCISD Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be incorporated into Title I Campuses' Schoolwide Plans and the District Improvement Plan by reference in individual strategies, as well as an attached addendum.
- Rice CISD will use a variety of methods to involve parents in the activities of the schools, which **may** include establishing a parent advisory board.

#### **PART IV    ADOPTION**

The **Rice CISD's Parental and Family Engagement Policy** has been developed jointly with, and agreed upon with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by **District Advisory Committee meeting agenda, sign-in sheets, and minutes.**