

COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

GK
(REGULATION)

The goal of Ector County Independent School District is to promote a school-home-community partnership that will help all students in the District succeed. The Superintendent, administrators, teachers and staff believe that parents are partners in the education of their children and that parental involvement and empowerment are essential at all levels throughout the school district.

Ector County Independent School District will hold an annual meeting to inform parents of the school's participation in the Title I Program. The requirements of the program will be explained as well as their right to be involved.

Ector County Independent School District recognizes that the caregiver for a child may be a parent, grandparent, extended family member, foster parent, guardian, or any other legally authorized individual who has the sole responsibility of rearing the child.

This parental involvement policy will foster various roles for parent, school, and community collaboration and provide clearly defined strategies for each role to be implemented district-wide.

STUDENT
LEARNING

Recognize that parents, families, and community members play an important role in assisting student learning at all grade levels.

- Annually conduct a needs assessment via parent survey.
- Inform parents about the curriculum in each core area.
- Suggest ways to enhance and support the curricula outside of school.
- Advise parents about how they can meet individual expectations, find help & support, prepare for standardized tests, and develop skills and habits that promote success and life-long learning.
- Involve parents in setting student goals, deciding placements and course selections, planning for college and careers.
- Educate parents about how students learn through workshops, hand outs, and training as needed.
- Educate parents about the different ways they may be involved at school from Pre-K and beyond.
- Distribute guidelines about homework expectations and policies to assist parents with homework completion and provide feedback to teachers.
- Offer school space for parents to meet, coordinate events, and gather.

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- Encourage homework that involves families in what is covered in class.
- Provide ideas to involve parents in their child's education.

COMMUNICATION

Help promote effective two-way communications among schools, families, and community members or groups.

- Foster a school climate that demonstrates to parents that their involvement is welcomed and valued.
- Invite families to orientations, open houses, and parent/teacher conferences (which will be held at different times during the day at least one time a year.)
- Ensure front office staff is friendly and school has visible signs in prominent places that welcome parents.
- Provide progress reports, report cards, follow-up conferences for parents and make home visits for hard to reach parents.
- Provide clear information to parents and students about student services, testing schedules, discipline codes, policies, courses available, and expectations for student achievement in a language the parents can understand.
- Use a variety of tools such as a parent website, e-mail, bulletin boards, newsletters, home visits and local media to communicate with parents.

RESPONSIBILITY

Sound parenting practices are promoted and supported.

- Work together to remove obstacles to involvement and educate parents as to how they can become involved.
- Communicate expectations for attendance, homework completion and graduation.
- Provide links for local and government support services and opportunities for networking.
- Support Family Education Resource Center so parents can access information and services.

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- Utilize surveys from parents to help develop training as needed.
- Work together to ensure the safety of students and their learning environments.
- Partner with community agencies and organizations to secure reference materials for families who cannot afford them.
- Develop school-parent compacts jointly with parents that delineate the responsibilities of each for improved student achievement.

VOLUNTEERING

Organize and support family and community members in their efforts to actively support the school and its' students.

- Survey potential volunteers in the community.
- Develop meaningful activities and match volunteer's interests and abilities.
- Implement an effective process to screen potential volunteers to ensure the safety of students.
- Offer a variety of times to volunteer as well as alternative volunteer opportunities for those that cannot contribute at school.
- Offer training and orientation at the district level as well as the campus level to include school procedures and protocols.
- Recognize volunteer efforts through ceremonies, certificates and other methods of appreciation.
- Promote, support, and encourage each campus to begin and continue PTA or other parent organizations.
- Develop a written parental involvement component for Campus Improvement Plan at each campus.
- Appropriate adequate funds to conduct meaningful parent involvement (1% of Title I school budget).

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- Appoint a volunteer chairperson for each campus.

SHARED
DECISION-
MAKING AND
ADVOCACY

Include families and community members as partners in school decisions.

- Collaborate with PTA/PTO's and other parent and community organizations to implement campus improvement plans that address issues of importance to parents.
- Include parents and community members on decision-making and advisory committees.
- Provide training as needed in area of budget, curriculum alignment and reform initiatives.
- Plan and implement the District's Title I, Part A program with meaningful consultation from parents of participating students, parent organizations, and volunteers.

COLLABORATING
WITH THE
COMMUNITY

Unite efforts and programs to provide services for families, students, school and community.

- Provide information to parents about services offered in the community such as after-school programs, tutoring, health care, and cultural and recreational events.
- Prepare students for real world experiences and careers by developing partnerships with local business and service providers.
- Develop and adopt policies and practices that promote and support the community to participate in public education.
- Ask all who participate to evaluate progress of the district towards parent/community involvement.
- Write thank you notes in order to cultivate and strengthen community/school relationships.
- Publicly acknowledge partnerships.

EDUCATOR/ STAFF
DEVELOPMENT

Conduct pre-service and in-service workshops on parent, family and community involvement for all district personnel.

- Provide school staff with audit/ survey/ research findings

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on kinds of family and community involvement.

- Work effectively with parents from different family structures and cultural backgrounds by developing the skills and sensitivity needed.
- Create inviting school culture and climate that welcome parents and community partners.
- Provide training on importance of two-way communication between the school and home.

ACCOUNTABILITY All school personnel, community partners, parents and students will have shared responsibility for high student academic achievement. The District shall support each school improvement plan with measureable results for schools, staff and parents ensuring parental involvement practices are implemented.

EVALUATION An annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy will be conducted. The evaluation will seek to determine if implementation of the policy helped to improve the academic quality of schools; seek to identify barriers to greater participation by parents; result in revisions to the parental involvement policy, if necessary, design strategies for more effective parental involvement within the six identified roles; involve the District Parent Advisory Council and share results of the evaluation with campuses and the community.

ANNUAL PARENT SURVEY Exhibit A will be provided to campuses for consistency in gathering data annually.