The Rice School Parent/Family Engagement Policy

The Rice School is committed to the goal of providing a quality education for every child in this school. We want to establish partnerships with parents and the community because we recognize that school and the home cannot be looked at in isolation from one another; families and schools must collaborate to help our children become successful students.

The Rice School intends to include parents in all aspects of the school's Title I Program. The goal is a school home partnership that will encourage all students at The Rice School to reach their highest potential and achieve success.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

The Rice School will host a minimum of four flexible meetings. Open House is held within the first two weeks of September each school year during which we review with parents the Title 1 School requirements and the school's Parent/Family Engagement Policy. Additionally, the principal updates parents on school test data, adequate yearly progress status, and facilitates a review of the school's improvement plan.

At Open House, parents are provided the opportunity to formally visit their child's classroom to become better informed about grade level expectations and their student's academic progress. Parents will also be invited to participate in a parent-teacher conference at least twice a year to discuss their child's progress.

The Rice School annually invites parents to participate in review and revision meetings and are encouraged to examine and discuss our School Improvement Plan, the School Compact and the Parent/Family Engagement Policy.

An organized PTO has been established in our school to create a forum for parental input and involvement. Our PTO affiliation connects our school to parental involvement resources at the state and national level.

The Rice School communicates with parents in a timely manner regarding the state's curricular and assessment expectations, school wide requirements in relation to the delivery of instruction, the techniques utilized to evaluate student work, and individual classroom routines pertinent to the academic success of our students.

In order to communicate effectively with parents, The Rice School uses a variety of communicative techniques to encourage parent participation and deliver important

information in hopes of creating productive dialogue between home and school concerning improved student achievement:

- School Calendars
- Monthly Newsletters
- Title 1 Parent Meetings/PTO Meetings
- **School Open House/ Parent-Teacher Conferences**
- Title 1 School Policy
- Title 1 School Compact
- School Website/ Parent Link (phone call system)
- Communication Folders
- Progress Reports and Report Cards

SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HIGH STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
Student education is not only the responsibility of the teacher, but also of the parent and child. For this reason, a Parent/Teacher-Student Compact has been developed and is utilized in our school.

The school staff and parents shall jointly develop a home-school compact that explains how parents, students and school staff will share responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The compact shall be reviewed annually and modified as needed.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT
To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership between the school, parents, and the community with the goal of improving student academic achievement, The Rice School will do the following:

- provide assistance to the parents in understanding such topics as the state's academic content standards and the state student academic achievement standards, state and local academic assessments.
- provide materials and training to assist parents working with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training.
- educate teachers, pupil services personnel, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in how to reach out to communicate with and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school.
- ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to the parents of participating in children in a format and, to extent practicable, in a language parents can understand. The Rice School has made it a practice to send home school correspondences in English and Spanish to ensure all information related to our school is understandable.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Parents of all students, regardless of English proficiency, mobility or disability, are considered to be an important part of our learning community. All parents are afforded the opportunity to be involved in their child's school environment.

For this reason, if a special need is identified, that would help a parent to more fully understand the educational process and the academic progress of his/her child, assistance will be provided to that parent. This type of support comes in the form of interpreted school documents in a parent's primary language, having an interpreter on hand to translate important information at school wide meetings and events, working with an interpreter to provide translation in parent/teacher conferences, making available parent resource in our library that are in English and Spanish, participating in faculty and staff training to better understand the culture of the students served.

If the schoolwide plan and/or parent family engagement policy is not satisfactory to parents, parents may submit any comments/concerns via email to
Marilyn Callegari, Campus Title I Contact at (713) 349-1800 or mcalleg1@houstonisd.org.