

# School Parent and Family Engagement Policy

## Pinecrest Elementary and Middle School

### 2025-2026



In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Pinecrest Elementary and Middle School receives Title I, Part A funds. Therefore we must jointly develop, agree on, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy, agreed on by such parents. The policy shall describe the means of carrying out the requirements of the Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1116. Parents shall be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. Such policy shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of the parents and the school. The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement several specific parental and family engagement activities.

Pinecrest Elementary and Middle School understands that parent and family engagement means the participation of parents and families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including the following:

- Parents and families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- Parents and families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- Parents and families are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child

Pinecrest Elementary and Middle School agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by ESSA Section 1116:

#### A. ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Pinecrest Elementary and Middle School will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents' requirements, the school parental involvement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

*At the beginning of the school year, Pinecrest Elementary and Middle School will hold its Annual Title I meeting to inform parents of the requirements of Title I and the school's participation as well as the parents' rights to be involved.*

#### B. FLEXIBLE NUMBER OF MEETINGS

Pinecrest Elementary and Middle School will offer a flexible number of engagement meetings at convenient times for families.

### C. JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Pinecrest Elementary and Middle School will take the following actions to involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan.

*At the beginning of the school year, Pinecrest Elementary and Middle School will meet with parents and other stakeholders. During this meeting, parents will receive information about the school's Parent and Family Engagement Plan and will be informed of their parental right to be involved in the planning and development of the plan through meetings, surveys and questionnaires. If the program plan is not satisfactory to parents, they may submit comments on the plan to the school administrator, Megan Hicks at [hicks@opsb.net](mailto:hicks@opsb.net). The plan will be sent home with students at the beginning of each school year and posted to the school's website.*

### D. COMMUNICATION

Pinecrest Elementary and Middle School will provide parents of participating children timely information about programs under Title I, including:

- a) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use,
- b) forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress,
- c) achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards, and
- d) if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicable possible.
- e) information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, will be sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format

*The Pinecrest Elementary and Middle School Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be sent home at the beginning of the school year and made available on the school's website. The policy will be assessed each year based on the number of participants, the number of volunteers, and the responses to the parent questionnaires and /or surveys. Parents will be involved in planning, reviewing and improving the policy through a yearly review.*

### E. DISSENSION PROCESS

Pinecrest Elementary and Middle School will submit any comments/concerns to the OPSB Director of Federal Programs if the schoolwide plan and/or parent and family engagement policy is not satisfactory to parents. Any comments/concerns can be emailed to the Director of Federal Programs, Dr. Felicia Sledge-Murphy, at [sledge@opsb.net](mailto:sledge@opsb.net) or phone at 318-432-5330.

### F. SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Pinecrest Elementary and Middle School will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school parent compact that outlines how families, school, staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standard and how the plan is used, reviewed, and updated.

*Pinecrest Elementary and Middle School will hold an annual parent meeting to review and discuss any needed changes to the jointly developed school compact. This compact will outline how the entire school staff, parents, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The compact will describe not only the school's responsibility in providing high quality instruction and curriculum, but the student and parent responsibilities for meeting and supporting the learning processes. The compact will give details on how parents will have reasonable access to staff, receive ongoing reports on student progress, and various opportunities to volunteer at the school.*

#### G. BUILD CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Pinecrest Elementary and Middle School will build the parents' capacity for strong parental involvement to ensure effective involvement of parents and families and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

- Materials to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement
- Provide assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
  - ❖ the State's academic content standards,
  - ❖ the State's student academic achievement standards,
  - ❖ the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
  - ❖ the requirements of Title I, Part A,
  - ❖ how to monitor their child's progress, and
  - ❖ how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.
- Educate school personnel, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of the contributions of parents, 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 parents and the school.
- Coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents to fully participate in the education of their children.

*Pinecrest Elementary and Middle School will also continue to encourage parents to use online resources such as Khan Academy.*

#### H. ACCESSIBILITY

Pinecrest Elementary and Middle School in carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of this part, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities, for the participation of parents and family members.

*Parent Volunteers will be asked to work within the community to garner support for events such as Fall Festival, parent conferences, and various other parent events. Surveys will be sent out to parents to gather input from parents regarding topics of need and to identify barriers to parent participation.*