HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
TITLE I, PART A, PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

Walnut Bend Elementary School

10620 Briar Forest Dr. Houston, TX 77042
Alecia McMillian, Principal

Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2025-2026

September 23, 2025

Statement of Purpose
Walnut Bend ES is committed to engage parents, community members, and businesses in partnerships that support student achievement. The goal is to ensure that all its students graduate from high school ready to succeed in college or the career of their choice. Walnut Bend ES recognizes that parents are valued partners, and they play an extremely important role in the educational process, serving as the child's first teacher in their early years of development. Therefore, Walnut Bend ES encourages the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student learning and other school activities. Walnut Bend ES wants parents to:

- Stay informed about your child's academic progress.
- Work in partnership with school staff to help your child to achieve at the highest levels.
- Communicate to your child the importance of being prepared for college and a career.

The Walnut Bend ES curriculum, which is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), includes non-negotiable objectives that must be taught at every grade level; however, individual schools are held accountable for innovative instructional programs and results. Every Walnut Bend ES student will be provided equal access to rigorous instruction and academic programs. Walnut Bend ES recognizes that some students may need extra assistance that is available through the Title I program to obtain high academic achievement. Walnut Bend ES will include parents in appropriate decision-making opportunities to support student academic achievement.

Parental Involvement in Developing the Policy
Parents are valued partners in the educational process, serving as the child's teacher in the home. In support of student achievement, Walnut Bend ES shall jointly develop with, and distribute to parents and family members of our students a written parent and family engagement policy. Parents will receive the policy in a language that they can understand, and they can revise it and be part of the development of the policy in the first meeting at the beginning of the school year. All school and district activities will consider the involvement of parents.

Capacity Building and Coordination
Walnut Bend ES will assist parents understanding state standards. Parents will be provided with training and materials needed to work with their children at home. Teachers and school staff will be prepared to educate parents as equal partners in the school community. Capacity building activities will be provided to increase student academic achievement through districtwide and campus efforts.

School-Parent Compacts
Each school must share responsibility with parents for improved student performance by developing, jointly with the parents, a school-parent-student compact. This compact must outline how parents, staff, and students will share responsibility for improved student academic achievement. Parents on each school's will be involved in designing these compacts. Parents will receive the compact from their child's school with a list of responsibilities that teachers, parents, and students will each have for helping students achieve their goals. Student responsibilities may vary by grade level. Parents and teachers are strongly urged to discuss the compact during conferences and with the students.

Types of Parental Involvement
There are many ways in which parents can become involved in their children's education. Walnut Bend ES values both the at-home contributions and those which take place at school and in the community. Parents can be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, the School-Family Compact for Achievement, and the Campus Improvement Plan. Reading to children at home and talking with them at family meals are as important as volunteering at school and serving on advisory committees. Many types of parental involvement are needed to ensure that all children succeed.

Matching Programs to the Needs of the Community
Each year, Walnut Bend ES will determine the needs of parents and children in the community through a variety of measures. This includes an annual consultation meeting with parents to ensure that the Title I program will be tailored to meeting those needs. Workshops and other programs will be available for parents and schools to help form partnerships which will improve the involvement of families in order to increase student academic achievement. Parents will be notified about these opportunities through the individual schools. Parents may call Walnut Bend Elementary school's office (713) 917-3540 at any time to express an interest in a workshop or to make other suggestions.

Staff-Parent Communication
Walnut Bend ES shall provide parents information about Title I Programs, description and explanation of HISD Curriculum, and the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress. Communication with parents may include a newsletter, parent notices, and activity packets sent home with children. Phone calls, conferences, and home visits will be scheduled as needed. Parents are encouraged to take the initiative in calling their child's teacher to monitor their child's progress as well as when they are concerned about a problem. They may also call the school office and ask for a translator for conferences. As much as possible, notices will be sent home in a language parents understand. Training on how to improve home-school communication will be available.

Annual Meeting for Title I Parents
Walnut Bend ES invites parents to the annual meetings, which take place within the first month of school, in the fall, and before the end of the school year in the spring. Information about Title I guidelines will be distributed. Parents will be given copies of the current Parental Involvement Policy and offered a chance to become involved in revising the policy as needed. Parents of students who receive Title I services will have input on how Title I funds will be used, including funds for parental involvement activities. Volunteers may serve on either the districtwide or individual school advisory council. Translation will be provided so that all parents may participate.

Walnut Bend ES will offer monthly meetings and parent engagement activities throughout the year at times that are convenient for families.

Evaluation
A districtwide Title I Advisory Council, which includes parent participation, will be involved in the process of school review and improvement. The goal is to evaluate the Title I schools in the district by collecting information in a variety of ways, including parent surveys, program evaluations and the school's report card. The survey will assess the level of increase for parental involvement and the barriers to effective parental involvement. Walnut Bend ES will revise its parental involvement policy based on this annual review. Furthermore, there will be an annual consultation meeting with parents for their review of the content of the district's federal programs. Parents' input will be used to improve the effectiveness of service delivery for each of the programs.

Conclusion
Walnut Bend ES is committed to ensuring that parents are partners in all Title I schools. "Parents as Partners" is one of the Core Values of the district's ideology and will be supported by the Title I Parental Involvement Program and promoted by building principals and other district and school staff.

Sincerely,

Alecia McMillian, Principal