

2025-2026 Howard Elementary

Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Howard Elementary School intends to follow the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy guidelines in accordance with federal law, *Section 1116(a -f) ESSA, (Every Student Succeeds Act) of 2015.*

In General

Each school served under this part shall jointly develop with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy, agreed on by such parents, that shall describe the means for carrying out the requirements. 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. The policy shall be made available to the local community and updated to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.

☐ Schools shall provide opportunities for the participation of parents and family members including those with migratory children, limited English proficiency, or have disabilities. Parent shall be notified of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities in an understandable and uniform format and to the extent practicable provided in a language the parents can understand.

Howard Elementary is committed to offering opportunities for parents and family members to be involved in our school. Family nights are held at various times of the year on different days of the week and times to ensure that we provide opportunities for all families to attend throughout the year. Some of these planned activities include:

- School Open House (Grades PK - 5) in August, Annual Parent Meeting in the Fall, Parent-Teacher Conferences in the Fall and Spring, Family Game Night, Holiday Stores, Literacy Night, and Math Night.

☐ Convene an annual parent meeting scheduled at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under this part and to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved.

Howard will host an annual parent meeting in the Fall (October/November) alongside a family event, providing an opportunity for parents to attend. This allows us to gather feedback on our

school-parent compact, review the Parent and Family Engagement policy, and gather ideas for things that families feel would support our school and their children. The meeting will take place at or after 5:00 pm, ensuring that the majority of parents can participate after their typical work hours.

- ☐ Involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the school Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

Howard Elementary offers numerous opportunities for parents to share their feedback each year. We encourage parents to participate in the climate survey provided by the district, and we welcome feedback in person or via email throughout the year. During the annual parent meeting, we specifically invite suggestions on how we can enhance our school, improve the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, and explore ways to better support our families.

- ☐ Provide opportunities for parents and family members to participate in decisions relating to the education of their children. The school shall provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities.

Parent-teacher conferences and Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings are key opportunities for parents to engage in the educational decisions affecting their children. We also ensure ongoing communication with parents regarding how we are addressing the academic and behavioral needs of students receiving interventions, utilizing methods such as email, in-person meetings, and phone calls. Additionally, we reach out to parents weekly through our school newsletter, which highlights upcoming events, celebrations, social-emotional learning opportunities, and other important updates.

- ☐ Provide parents of participating children timely information about programs under this part, a description and explanation of the curriculum in use, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards. The school will provide assistance, opportunities, and/or materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement in a format, and when feasible, in a language the parents and family members can understand.

The district student handbook is available to parents upon request and can also be accessed online. We use our newsletter and school messaging program to communicate information about upcoming assessments. Additionally, we review the state assessments that students will take during our annual Title I meeting. During Parent-Teacher Conferences, teachers provide more detailed information on state and district assessments, as well as classroom assignments, and their students' current overall achievement levels. Report cards are issued and posted three times a year and can be accessed by parents through ParentVue

- ☐ Educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, with the assistance of parents in the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners.

All staff members are trained annually on how and when to communicate with parents. We utilize email, phone calls, and in-person meetings, and offer an interpreter when applicable to support our diverse population. Staff is encouraged to reach out to parents when students are doing well and when they are struggling. Our school social worker, counselor, and bilingual para-professionals are excellent resources for our staff, as they are well-connected with our families and community.

- ☐ Coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State and local programs, including preschool programs that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

Summer Strong (summer school) is offered to students in Kindergarten through 4th grade in June. A joint effort with Title I.

POWER Camp is provided to 2nd through 5th-grade students in June. A joint effort with Title I and Title IV.

Newcomer Summer School is provided to Kindergarten-5th grade students who are new to the country that school year. A joint effort with the EL program.