

# 2025-2026 Knickrehm Elementary Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

**Knickrehm Elementary** 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. Parents 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.

Knickrehm Elementary School fosters communication, meetings, and activities in the following ways: They are interpreted in English and Spanish.

- Knickrehm Back-to-School Bash and Annual Title I Meeting - August
- Community Cafe's called "Come, Eat, Talk" events are hosted 6 times per year.
- The School-Parent Compact is shared with the teachers, parents, and students at the first round of conferences in October annually.
- Knickrehm weekly parent newsletters are sent out weekly and translated in English and Spanish. These keep our parents informed regarding building and district information.
- Facebook is updated frequently with school news.
- Peachjar is used to announce extra-curricular activities.
- We also host events such as literacy and numeracy nights, a family dance, field day, field trips, etc.

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.

Knickrehm Elementary School hosts an Annual Title I Meeting at our Back-to-School Bash in August. Please contact Principal Jennifer Ritter for more information regarding Title I. Slide deck shared with parents.

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

Knickrehm Elementary School involves parents in this process annually in September. We have four parent members on our team and one administrator. This is also reviewed by our Building Leadership Team. We have four Knickrehm parents review our plan and give us feedback annually. This occurs in September of each year.

- 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.

We have Community Cafes six times per year. These Cafes allow our parents to come and eat a free meal with their children, free childcare for the second portion, and adult discussions centered around the needs of our school community. Action steps happen after needs arise. We also send out a Panorama survey to our parents at the district level. This gathers input on various areas.

- 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.

We communicate with parents as students move through our tiers of support both academically and behaviorally. We send assessment results home with students. We explain the importance of these assessments and students' current levels of achievement at parent-teacher conferences twice per year.

We have a 3-tiered system of support for academics and behaviors (MTSS). A monthly checklist for MTSS and MTSS meetings. These happen during our PLC meetings. We select interventions for reading using our DIBELS assessment data.

We have positive support meetings weekly. The team includes our School Psychologist, School Social Worker, District Positive Support Coach, Positive Support Monitor, and Building Principal.

For all academic interventions, we progress-monitor students who fall in the red tier weekly and students who fall in the yellow tier every other week. We analyze this data at our MTSS Academic and Behavior meetings and adjust accordingly.

MTSS plans are developed by teachers following an MTSS referral meeting at which the team determines to move forward with a MTSS Plan and one or more of the following individuals are present at the meeting:

1. MTSS Chair
2. Academic Support Coach
3. Principal

- 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.

These are Knickrehm's general guidelines for parent communication:

Skillful, sensitive, and consistent communication is the foundation of strong partnerships with the parents of your students.

**DO: Contact parents at the beginning of the year**

**DO: Encourage parents to volunteer and attend school events**

**DO: Update parents at the middle and end of each grading period**

**DO: Schedule regular conferences**

**DO: Respect diverse family cultures**

**DO: Share good news**

**DO: Communicate with a goal in mind when there is a problem**

**DO: Treat parents as the experts on their child**

**DO: Provide helpful end-of-year reflections**

**DON'T: Use education jargon**

**DON'T: Talk loudly and incessantly**

**DON'T: Interrupt a parent**

**DON'T: Presume ignorance**

**DON'T: Disengage physically**

\*\* Excerpted and adapted from **Launching a Career in Special Education** by Elizabeth Potts & Lori Howard

- 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.

We have tables set up with community resources for our family at our Back to School Bash each year. We host meetings such as “Know Your Rights” meetings to educate our parents on various top of mind issues. We also have transportation for Title I Summer School (Summer Strong) and PowerCamp during the summer months. Finally, we have a committee dedicated to planning Title I parent involvement nights.