

Sweeny Elementary School

Parent Involvement Policy

Statement of Purpose

Sweeny Elementary School will strengthen the academic, social and economic foundation of our community, by committing to provide its students a high-quality elementary school education that prepares them for a future of learning and leading by promoting a college-bound culture. Sweeny Elementary School is committed to ensuring the highest quality education for all students in the district. Through parent and community support the school will help convey the importance of academic success for all students. Sweeny Elementary intends to include parents in all aspects of their child's education and to create a home-school partnership that will empower parents and students for future success.

Parental Involvement in Developing the Policy

Sweeny Elementary School will include parents in the development, evaluation, and revision of the Title I Program and the Parental Involvement Policy. The School-Parent Compact will describe the responsibilities of key stakeholders. Administration, staff representatives and parents from Sweeny Elementary School will convene at a time and place convenient for all to meet and update the Parental Involvement Policy.

Annual Meeting

Sweeny Elementary School will hold an annual meeting in the evening at the beginning of the school year for parents. At that meeting, the Title I program will be described, the Parental Involvement Policy will be distributed and reviewed, and opportunities for parental participation will be explained. The school shall also arrange four (4) school meetings at a variety of times so parents can be involved in the education of their child (Open House, Meet the Teacher, etc.). Parents will be advised that the effectiveness of the Parental Involvement Program will be evaluated annually and the policy will be revised to meet the needs of the students, school, parents, and community.

Parent-School Compact

The responsibilities of the school, parents, and children in increasing student learning and achievement are identified in our School-Parent Compact. According to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001(NCLB), each school must share responsibility with parents for high student academic performance by developing a school-parent compact jointly with the parents. 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. Parents and teachers are strongly urged to discuss the compact together, and with the students. Periodically, parents of participating students will be invited to review the compact and make suggestions for revisions.

Capacity Building and Coordination for Parent Involvement

- Will provide assistance to parents in how to monitor a child's progress, and how to work with educators to improve student achievement.
- Will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve student achievement.
- Will provide information in a language that parents understand.
- Will develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations in parental involvement activities.
- Will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children
- Will provide parents with a description and explanation of the curriculum used, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and proficiency levels, and levels students are expected to meet using Stanford and STAAR scores.
- Will provide assistance in understanding the state's academic content standards, the state's student achievement standards and the local assessment through the use of teachers, administrators, technology, and parent workshops.

Programs and the Needs of the School Community

Sweeny Elementary School will annually assess the needs of the school community using a variety of tools including a survey or questionnaire. The resulting data will be used to revise the Title I program to meet the current needs of the campus community. Additionally, training will be available to address the needs of the school community, if necessary.

Staff-Parent Communication

Sweeny Elementary School will communicate with parents on a regular basis. This important information will be made available in a variety of formats including but not limited to: the student handbook, the School-Parent Compact, newsletters, and on the school website. Frequent notices about student performance will be sent home with children, or provided by phone calls, e-mails, conferences, and home visits. All communication will be provided in a language and format the parents can understand. Open communication between the home and the school will be encouraged. Teachers will be available to parents for conferences throughout the year.

Evaluation

The Campus Planning Committee will evaluate the effectiveness of the Parental Involvement Program. Resources that will include assessment data and surveys will be used to determine the needs and develop revised strategies for student success. Changes to the Parental Involvement Policy and the Title I Program will be developed, agreed upon and will incorporate parent input.