



## Waller ISD Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2020-2021

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, all school districts receiving Title I, Part A funds must develop a written parental involvement policy as required by Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This policy establishes the expectations for parent and family engagement (PFE) and describes how the district will support the integral role of families in the education of their children to promote student academic achievement.

Waller ISD agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

Policy Requirement: The district will –	Strategy: District support and action steps –
<p><b>1. Involve</b> parents and families to jointly develop the Title I program plan, including the PFE Policy, and in the process of improving and reviewing the plan and policy</p>	<p>Waller ISD is dedicated to providing a quality education for every student in our district. In support of the district mission to enable today’s students to thrive and compete in the “twenty-first century workplace,” Waller ISD will develop and nurture partnerships with parents/caregivers, students, and community stakeholders. Furthermore, the district will involve parents/caregivers in all aspects of the various local, state and federal programs offered in Waller ISD schools. Waller ISD will accomplish this by taking the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district/school PFE plan such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● actively recruit parents/caregivers to participate in parent advisory capacity.</li> <li>● schedule meetings at convenient times and locations to participate in a comprehensive review of policy, budget, and programs for parent involvement.</li> <li>● establish campus level contacts to implement parent involvement activities and initiatives.</li> <li>● offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and provide child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement.</li> <li>● facilitate communication between parents/caregivers and Title I campuses in native language as represented by district demographics.</li> </ul> <p>The school district will incorporate this districtwide parental involvement policy into its district plan.</p>



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<p><b>2. Provide</b> the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance</p>	<p>Waller ISD will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I schools in planning and implementing effective PFE activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● campus visitation by Chief Academic Officer to serve in an advisory capacity to Title I Campuses.</li><li>● work with the schools to ensure that the required school-level PFE policies meet the Title I requirements, and include, as a component, a School-Parent Compact.</li><li>● offer a PFE Benefits training to our school personnel.</li><li>● a district meeting of parents/caregivers, community members, and campus personnel to provide feedback and input on campus plans, policies, and budget allocations.</li><li>● community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, will be provided appropriate roles in parental involvement activities, such as H-E-B Read 3, FNB Smart Money, Back to School Fair, Summer Parent Academy, Community Markets with the Houston Foodbank, and partnerships with Community of Faith and Lone Star College Tomball.</li></ul>
<p><b>3. Build the capacity</b> of schools and parents in order to improve student academic achievement and school performance</p> <p><b>a) assist parents</b> of participating children in understanding state academic standards, state and local academic assessments, how to monitor their child’s progress, and how to work with</p>	<p>Waller ISD will build the schools’ and parents’ capacity for strong parental engagement in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the schools involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities:</p> <p>a) providing resources and assistance to parents of children served by the school district/school, as appropriate, in understanding the state’s academic content standards, student academic achievement standards, and state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments. The requirements of Title I include knowing how to monitor the child’s progress and understand how to work with educators to support and improve the learning, development, and whole health of the students. The district and schools may use parent-teacher conferences, report cards and</p>



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educators to improve the achievement of their children

**b) provide materials and training** to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy and technology

**c) educate** teachers, specialized instruction support personnel, principals, and other school leaders and staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents and families, 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 school

**d) coordinate and integrate, to the extent feasible and appropriate,** 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

progress reports, Skyward, Parent University, as well as allow reasonable access to staff, opportunities to observe and/or volunteer in their child's classroom to serve this purpose.

- b) The goal of the PFE program is to implement effective PFE activities to improve student achievement and school performance. Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. In supporting this goal, the district will, with the assistance of its Title I schools:
- i) provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.
  - ii) pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities.
  - iii) train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.
  - iv) arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences. These meetings may include teachers, other educators, and parents of the participating children.
- c) With the assistance of its Title I schools and parents, the district will educate its teachers, administrators and other staff on how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners in the value and utility of contributions of parents. The contributions of the parents will consist in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools with the goal of improving student achievement. The focus will be on the benefits of PFE.



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<p><b>e) ensure information</b> related to school and parent/family programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents/families in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand</p>	<p>d) The district will coordinate and integrate PFE strategies under Title I with the following other programs: Preschool programs, Title III Family Engagement Activities, and Family Literacy programs. It will also continue to involve community organizations in family engagement activities as feasible, as well as participate in programs that serve families and students.</p> <p>e) The school/district will take the following actions to ensure that Title I information related to the school and parent-programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) translators provided at the campus level for Spanish speaking parents.</li> <li>ii) district Mass Communication system set up in English and Spanish based upon the primary language identified for the home.</li> <li>iii) translations for all Title I information will be provided in both English and Spanish.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Provide reasonable support</b> for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request</p>	<p>In carrying out the Title I PFE requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents with children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a native language as represented by district demographics.</p>



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<p><b>5. Conduct an annual evaluation</b> of the effectiveness of the PFE policy</p> <p><b>a. use the findings</b> from the evaluation to design more effective parental involvement strategies</p>	<p>Waller ISD, as well as each campus, will take action to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this PFE policy in improving the quality of Title I schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. The evaluation will also seek to meaningfully involve parents, assess content and effectiveness of PFE policy as it relates to the academic quality of schools. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its PFE policy and activities to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement and services, and to revise, if necessary its PFE policies. During the Campus Needs Assessment process, one focus group/committee specifically reviews family and community involvement in the district.</p>
<p><b>6. Involve parents</b> in the activities of the schools</p>	<p>The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I programs. Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.</p>
<p><b>7. Reservation of funds</b></p>	<p>Waller ISD will involve the parents and families of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for PFE is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools for implementation of the PFE program at each campus.</p>

This districtwide PFE Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs. This policy was adopted by Waller ISD in June 2020 and will be in effect for the 2020-2021 school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 2020.