

Waller Independent School District Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2018-2019

Our Vision:

All students will be successful learners and possess the skills necessary to function in the 21st century.

Our Mission:

The district believes that all students can be successful learners and graduate with the skills that will allow them to compete in the twenty-first century workplace. It is therefore the intent of the district to serve all students regardless of their ability, environment, or national origin. Student will be provided opportunities to develop intellectually, physically, and socially through a quality system of teaching and learning. Through these opportunities, student will be responsible and productive members of a constantly changing society and world.

Waller Independent School District will implement the following statutory requirements:

- 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.
- The school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the Title I requirements, and include, as a component, a school parent compact.
- The school district will incorporate this district-wide parental involvement policy into its district plan.
- In carrying out the Title I parent and family engagement 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.
- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement, and expects that the Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parents as Partners:

The goal of the parent and family engagement program is to implement effective parent and family engagement 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, including ensuring that:

- parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning.
- parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school.
- parents are full partners in their child’s education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.

Statement of Purpose:

Waller Independent School District 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.

Parent Involvement in Developing the Policy:

Waller Independent School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance such as:

- campus visitation by Federal Program Director to serve in an advisory capacity to Title I Campuses.
- a district meeting of parents/caregivers, community members, and campus personnel to provide feedback and input on campus plans, policies, and budget allocations.
- community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, will be provided appropriate roles in parental involvement activities.

Waller Independent School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district/school parent and family engagement plan such as:

- actively recruit parents/caregivers to participate in parent advisory capacity.
- schedule meetings at convenient times and locations to participate in a comprehensive review of policy, budget, and programs for parent involvement.
- establish campus level contacts to implement parent involvement activities and initiatives.
- 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.
- facilitate communication between parents/caregivers and Title I campuses in native language as represented by district demographics.

Annual Meetings/Trainings for Title I Parents:

Waller Independent School District uses Title I funds to provide school-wide services for all students enrolled on Title I campuses. The Title I campuses will hold at least (1) one meeting annually to review Title I guidelines and services offered at campus level. Copies of the district’s current Parent and Family Engagement Policy and campus designed Parent-Student Compact will be distributed at the meeting. Both documents will be provided in English and in Spanish. The meeting will be held at a convenient time and location. Notice of the meeting will be provided through public announcements and school based information flyers. Translators will be available to help with non-English speaking parents/caregivers.

Waller Independent School District will provide parents of participating children, if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practically possible. The district will with the assistance of its Title I schools:

- 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.
- pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities.
- train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.
- arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences. These meetings may include teachers, other educators, and parent of the participating children.

Reservation of Funds:

Waller Independent School District is allocated more than \$500,000 in Title I Part A funds, therefore Waller Independent School District sets aside at least 1% of the allotment for implementation of the parent and family engagement program at each campus.

Matching Parent and Family Engagement Programs to the Needs of the Community:

Waller Independent School District 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:

- The school/district will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 1. the state's academic content standards
 2. the state's student academic achievement standards
 3. the state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
 4. the requirements of Title I
 5. how to monitor their child's progress
 6. how to work with educators
- Parent-teacher conferences will be held at least annually in elementary schools.
- Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to observe and/volunteer in their child's classroom.
- If you have any concerns or questions about your student's progress, please contact your campus administrator.

Coordination and Integration of Services:

The Waller Independent School District will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under Title I with the following other programs: Preschool programs, Title III Family Engagement Activities, and Family Literacy programs.

Building Capacity:

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 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 parent and family engagement.

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:

- translators provided at the campus level for Spanish speaking parents.
- district phone call out system set up in English and Spanish based upon the primary language identified for the home.
- translations for all Title I information will be provided in both English and Spanish.

Identifying Barriers:

In carrying out parent and family engagement communication, districts and schools, to the extent practicable, shall 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 a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents can understand. We must identify the needs of parents and family members to assist in the learning of their children.

School-Parent Compacts:

As a component of the school-level parent and family engagement policy, each school shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under this part a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. This compact will be provided by each Title I campus. The parent compact will be reviewed yearly for updates and revision.

Evaluation/Effective Strategies:

Waller Independent School District, 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 parent and family engagement 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 school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary and with the involvement of parents in its parent and family engagement policies. During the CNA process, one focus group/committee specifically reviews Family and Community Involvement in the District.

