



The Houston Independent School District

**Parent Involvement Policy for  
Sharpstown International School 6-12  
8330 Triola Lane  
Houston, TX 77036**

If students are to be successful, their parents and/or guardians must be actively involved in their education. Sharpstown International School 6-12 developed this policy to describe how we involve parents in the development of policy and the School-Parent Compact, to help parents to help their children achieve in school, and to make sure parents with limited English proficiency or disabilities can participate in their children's education. This policy was developed with the assistance and approval of the parents of children participating in the Title I program, as well as Ms. Thuy Le-Thai, principal, and Dr. Pam Hubbert, Dean of Students and Title I Coordinator.

**Policy Involvement.** September 9, 2014, we invited the parents of all children to join us for a minimum of four (4) parent meetings. The meetings will held on several different days and times throughout the year, and parents have a choice of which to attend. At the meetings we discuss Title I, Part A components, its requirements, and the rights of and benefits to parents of children involved. We explain how parents can be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including contributing to the parental involvement policy and recommendations for school improvements and other parent concerns. Other opportunities for parents include the Annual Title I Meeting, four (4) Parent Action Committee meetings, SDMC, PGP parent conference, Parent Teacher Organization, International Festival, senior/college preparation meetings, After School Program, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Week.

**Program Involvement.** At parent meetings and with notifications throughout the year, we give parents of participating children timely information about our Title I programs, curriculum, Power Up laptop deployment, tutorials, Parent Teacher Organization, parent gatherings for informal discussions regarding the challenges of parenting, SDMC, TAKS/STAAR/EOC/AP, graduation plans, and special teaching strategies being implemented at Sharpstown International School 6-12. Our curriculum is guided by the HISD Curriculum Department, HISD Pacing Guides, College Board AP Guides, and Asia Society Graduate Portfolio System (GPS). Parents are informed about how their child and the school are doing on summative assessments such as TAKS/STAAR/EOC/AP and other measures of performance such as the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, PSAT, and SAT. In addition, we discuss grades and formative assessments used to measure student progress. We continually remind parents that we share the responsibility for ensuring our students attain high academic achievement on the state standards. At Sharpstown International School passing is not enough, we expect our students to achieve advanced levels of achievement. We hold parent meetings, distribute written communications, and offer parent and family activities. Many of the opportunities provided on campus are in response to parent suggestions. Through parent meetings and the SDMC, parents are able to participate in decisions concerning school policies and programs. We are currently involving parents in the planning stages of the 2014 Bond funding for our campus.

If the School-wide Program Plan is unsatisfactory to the parents, the school submits parents' comments to the Department of External Funding and revises the plan as advised by the District, campus committee, and/or other designees as determined by the Title I, Part A Program in the Houston Independent School District.

**School-Parent Compact.** The School-Parent Compact is developed jointly with parents of participating Title I students and explains how parents, school staff/faculty, and the students will all share responsibility for each student's academic success.

**Building Capacity for Involvement.** It is part of the roll of Sharpstown International School 6 -12 to teach parents how to help their children learn. One way this is done is by explaining education laws. Parents are given information about the National Education Goals, Title I requirements, Texas content and performance standards such as the TEKS and TAKS/STAAR/EOC. In addition, we assist parents in accessing Parent Connection online to monitor student grades, communicate with teachers, and monitor progress toward achievement of their child.

**Parent Training and Involvement.** Presentations are done to help parents know if a child is doing well, how parents can work with educators to help their children, preparing for college, and how to be involved in decision-making about the education of their children. Other activities include PAC, PTO meetings and activities, and VIPS.

Training is also given to teachers and other staff members. School staff are taught the importance of involving parents, parents as partners, programs for parents, and building ties between home, school, and community. Other examples include meetings with community partners and family advocacy groups. When possible, parents are involved in the development of this training. Our school strives to coordinate parental involvement activities among the different programs available on our campus. Shared parental involvement activities are sponsored by Title I, multilingual parent education activities, and counseling education programs such as financial aid for college, violence/bullying prevention, cyber safety, and drug awareness.

The development of school-business partnerships including activities for parents is encouraged. Community-based organizations and businesses are given information about opportunities for working with parents. We work with national and international groups through International Studies School Network (ISSN), Asia Society, Confucius Institute, and Confucius Classrooms. We contact many local businesses, churches, schools, and organizations including HEB, Fiesta, Houston Baptist University, University of Houston, Houston Chronicle, Daughters of the Texas Revolution, Houston Press Club, Pizza Patron, and Rodeo Houston.

**Accessibility.** Participation and involvement of all parents is important. Information related to student achievement, school performance, school and parent programs, meetings and other opportunities for participation are sent home in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese whenever possible. Some of the standard information sent home in Spanish includes the school enrollment forms, free/reduced lunch applications, Parental Involvement Policy, School-Parent Compact, announcements, newsletters, report cards, school profiles, student test results, etc. For parents whose home language is other than English or Spanish, our school uses translators in the community as often as possible.

We ensure the ability of parents with disabilities to participate by providing handicapped access to all buildings where meetings are held. We also provide reserved parking with handicap designation. Translators are provided at meetings as often as possible to accommodate parents with languages other than English.

Date Issued: December 15, 2015

Date Updated: November 17, 2014

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Approved by Thuy Le-Thai, Principal