**Parent & Family Engagement Policy**

**Whittier Elementary School** agrees to implement the statutory requirements of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to ensure that the required level parental engagement policies meet the requirements, and each includes, as a component, a school-parent-student compact. The school, will hold a joint meeting with parents to review, update, and adopt the policy. Whittier Elementary will notify parents of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in language parents can understand. The policy will be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents, students, and the school. The policy will be distributed to all families and discussed at all parental involvement meetings.

**Whittier Elementary School** believes that parent engagement is the necessary link to help students meet promotion standards, pass state tests, and add knowledge and value to their daily learning. It is our plan and expectation that parents, students, teachers and staff will work together to support each student’s achievement, growth, and success. The school will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental engagement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition: Parental engagement 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 essential role in assisting their child’s learning;
* that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school and at home;
* that 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 and the carrying out of other activities such as those described in the ESSA.

**A. Policy Involvement**

 The school will hold an annual meeting in September to notify parents and students of Whittier’s participation in the Title I program and to inform parents of the requirements of a Title I school and the rights of the parents to be involved. A minimum of four parent engagement meetings will be held each school year. The focus of each meeting will be to involve parents in their child’s education, to allow parents opportunities for input in making decisions relating to their child’s education, to give input for improvement of parent opportunities to be involved, and to review the school wide Title I plan and use of funds. For the 2024-2025 school year, Whittier Elementary’ s Title I funds will be used to provide supplemental services to improve academic performance for students who are at risk of not meeting standards.

On a timely and regular basis, the parents will work with the school to review, plan, and improve programs under the parent engagement policy. Parent input is called encouraged at the four meetings or a parent can schedule an individual appointment with the principal to discuss his or her ideas for improvement of the program and or the school's overall achievement. If the school wide Title I program plan is not satisfactory to the parents, the school will submit parents’ comments on the plan to External Funding and revise the plan. To the extent practicable, the school will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format and including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in language parents understand.

Annually, the school will provide parents with a description and explanation of the state curriculum used in HISD schools, the state and district assessments used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet. HISD promotion standards are disseminated annually to parents and copies are available at the school as well as on the HISD website. The school will provide each student’s parent/guardian an individual student report regarding their child’s performance on the state STAAR test by the end of Summer 2025. An explanation of the test and scoring is sent home to parents with the individual student scores.

Ongoing communication between the school and parents is essential to a student’s academic success. Parents are urged participate in their child’s school activities and observe their child’s classroom. Parents are encouraged to regularly and frequently communicate with their child’s teacher regarding their child’s progress in school/ Report cards are distributed quarterly (every 6 weeks) and progress reports are sent home every 3 – 4 weeks. At progress report time, report card time, and as needed, parents are encouraged to schedule a conference with the teacher or a school administrator to discuss their child’s progress and how they can best support their child’s education at home. We use a variety of communication techniques such as:

School website Schoolwide call-outs

Marquee sign Family nights

Social media platforms ARDs/ 504 meetings

Parent/ teacher conferences Open House

**B. Shared Responsibilities for High Academic Achievement**

In addition to the Parent Engagement Policy, the school and parents will jointly develop a School-Parent Student Compact that outlines how parents, the school faculty and staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. Whittier Elementary , and the parents of the students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESSA) (participating children), agree that this compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the State’s high standards.

Whittier’s School-Parent Compact has been developed and is utilized in our school. This document serves as an agreement between all parties that they will adhere to certain duties and responsibilities to ensure the success of the student. It is reviewed by all at the beginning of each school year. This compact is also used to motivate students and parents to become more involved in the educational process and to let parents know that they are equal partners in their child’s learning.

**C. Build Capacity for Involvement**

Whittier Elementary’ s faculty, staff and parents will work together to engage and support parental engagement to increase student achievement. To ensure effective engagement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents and the community to improve student academic achievement, the campus will build the schools’ and parents’ capacity for strong parental involvement. Parents of all students, regardless of English proficiency, mobility, or disability, are important part of our learning community. Therefore, all parents are afforded the opportunity to be involved in their child’s school environment. Parents are strongly encouraged to participate in all areas of parental engagement and engagement established by the school. School and district information is sent home in the parent’s home language. Additionally, we ensure that parents with disabilities will have the opportunity to participate by providing handicapped access to our building. We will also have an interpreter on hand to translate important information at school wide meetings, events,

and parent/teacher conferences.

The policy will be in effect for the 2024-2025 school year. The school will distribute this updated policy to all parents of children participating in Title I, Part A at Whittier Elementary School.