

# Tijerina Elementary School



## Parent Involvement Policy 2011 – 2012

Parents and/or guardians must be actively involved in their child's education, if they are to be successful. Parents are a valued partner in the education process, serving as their child's first teacher. As a result, parents, play an extremely important role. The school staff is trained on the importance of involving parents, parents as partners, programs for parents, and building ties between home and school.

To help our school achieve the goal of increasing student achievement and providing a high-quality education for all students, we will:

- Develop a parent involvement policy, with a representative group of parents, school staff and administrator to describe how we involve all parents and to show how we help all parents to help their children achieve in school. This policy is reviewed by parent representatives and changes made as needed. Parents will be invited to a minimum of four Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meetings that will be held on different days and times. We will discuss Title I law, its requirements, and the rights and benefits to parents of children involved. We explain how parents can be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs. If the schoolwide program plan is not satisfactory to the parents, we will submit parents' comments on the plan to the Department of External Funding and revised the plan as advised.
- Teach parents how to help their children learn. One way this is done is by explaining to parents education laws. Parent are given information about the NCLB law, Title I requirements, Texas content and performance standards such as the TEKS and TAKS. Our school coordinates all parental involvement activities with the different federal programs available at our campus, such as Title I, Title III, Communities is Schools and Head-Start.
- Develop a School-Parent Compact. The compact will explain how parents, school staff, and the students will share responsibility for each student's academic success. Our compact, based on the District model, is reviewed annually with a group of parents and the parental involvement committee. Revisions will be made with their input and later presented to parents at a Title I parent meeting. Parent Compacts are sent home at the beginning of each school year. The compact shall also include ways in which parents will participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time.
- Invite parents to a variety of meetings, trainings and programs which can help parents become involved in their children's education. Presentations are done to help parents: (1) know if a child is doing well, (2) work with educators to help their children, and (3) become involved in

decision-making about the education of their children. Training such as Family Literacy Night, Family Math Night, PTA-related information, Parent Literacy classes (GED, ESL, and computer) and Health Fair and other information provided from outside agencies are provided. We will integrate parental involvement program and activities with other programs, such as Head Start and Avance. Parenting classes are provided for parents to learn about child rearing issues. Upon parents' request, materials will be given to help them practice skills and work with their children at home.

- Complete a school parent survey each year to help us to plan and design our parental involvement program. The input received from this survey will help us tailor our meetings and activities to meet the needs of our community. Results from this survey will also be available for review by parents. Meetings will be scheduled at different times of day to ensure that all parents have an opportunity to participate.
- Provide all parents with timely information on school programs and activities throughout the year through newsletters, bulletin boards, flyers, calendars and parent meetings. A folder will be sent home every Wednesday to enhance communication between parent and school. We will describe and explain our curriculum and expectations for students, as well as, how the district measures student performance. We will explain how each child and the school as a whole is doing on state and district tests (TAKS, TAKS-M, Stanford/Aprenda etc. ). We offer opportunities for parents to participate in decisions concerning our school wide programs. Parents will be invited to parent conferences and sent progress reports to help monitor student progress. Information related to student achievement, school performance, school and parent programs, meetings and other opportunities for participation is sent home in the parent's home language. Some of the standard information sent home in Spanish and English includes this policy, School-Parent compact, announcements, and newsletters. Translators are available at our campus to help parents whenever needed.
- At the first Title I meeting for parents, information about Title I, Part A will be presented. Parents will be given or sent copies of the current parental involvement policy and offered a chance to help revise the policy, as needed. Another important issue addressed at this meeting is to review the purpose and major strategies of the Title I program and how the allocated funds are used.
- A district wide Title I parent survey will be sent home at the end of each school year. The results of this survey will help our school evaluate the effectiveness of our Title I program. Parents will be invited to participate in a district wide consultation meeting to evaluate the content and effectiveness of all federal programs. Also, parent evaluation forms will be distributed at parent meetings to help us assess our programs and meetings. Parental input is vital to helping us assess and improve the services we wish to provide our parents and community.

Research has shown a strong connection between family involvement and children's academic achievement, attendance, attitude, and continued education. However families must feel welcomed respected and heard if a partnership between schools and them are to be successful. Their input and time put into helping their children succeed is valued. That is why, we, at Tijerina Elementary will strive to help create a positive school climate which will make our families feel welcomed and accepted in the school.