**TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT POLICY, PART A, 2023–2024**

The Houston Independent School District (HISD) will implement the following requirements of the “Every Student Succeeds” law.

1. Conduct consultation sessions with parents of participating children for the implementation of programs, activities and procedures related to parental involvement in all Title I, Part A schools.
2. Write the Parent and Family Engagement Policy in agreement with them and distribute it to all parents of participating children. The district will incorporate this policy into its plan.
3. Provide technical assistance to all Title I, Part A schools to write with the parents the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the school-parent compact.
4. Provide coordination, technical assistance and other necessary supports to help Title schools, Part A, in the planning and implementation of parent involvement activities that improve student academic achievement and school performance.
5. Support Title I, Part A schools to increase the active participation capacity of the school and parents and promote the development of parenting and family literacy skills in order to improve academic performance.
6. Coordinate and combine when possible Title I, Part A parent involvement strategies with the involvement strategies of other programs.
7. Conduct, with parental support, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the program to improve the academic achievement of Title I, Part A schools. The district will use the evaluation findings to formulate strategies for effective participation and to revise, if necessary, the participation policy.
8. Identify barriers that prevent greater parental involvement in student activities in Title I, Part A schools, with particular attention to parents financially disadvantaged, disabled, limited in their English or literacy skills, or who belong to a racial or ethnic minority.
9. To procurethat all notices and reports sent to parents are easily understandable, presented in a uniform format and, where possible, in a language that parents understand.

**STATEMENTS OF OBJECTIVES**

The Houston Independent School District is committed to collaborating with parents, students, the community and other stakeholders to improve student academic achievement. HISD values ​​parent collaboration in preparing our students to be prepared to succeed in the college or career of their choice and beyond. The district recognizes that parents serve an extremely important role as their children's first teachers and that as partners in the educational process their input is valuable. Consequently, whenever appropriate, parents will be included in decision-making to support their children's academic performance. Partnerships with parents and the community are vital, and therefore HISD encourages parents to participate through regular, collaborative and productive communication in support of their children's academic learning and in connection with other school activities. HISD seeks to ensure that parents:

* + - Be informed about the academic well-being of your children through various means of communication.
    - Work with school staff to help your children achieve their highest level of achievement.
    - Teach your children the importance of being college and career ready.

The HISD curriculum is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and includes non-negotiable objectives that must be met in teaching at each grade level. However, schools must be individually accountable for innovative educational programs and their results.

All HISD students will have equal access to rigorous instruction and challenging academic programs. HISD recognizes that some students may need additional supports offered by the Title I, Part A program in order to achieve a high level of academic achievement.

**PARTICIPATION OF PARENTS IN THE CREATION OF POLICY**

All school and district activities must encourage parental involvement. The district will invite parents to consultation meetings to collaborate with parents and other stakeholders on district policies. These consultation meetings will be staffed by volunteers: parents, guardians, school Title I contacts, and other school staff, administrators, community members, and central office staff. The goal is for parents to participate in the decision-making process of the Title I, Part A program.

**INCREASE OF THE COMPACITY AND COORDINATION**

The goal of increasing capacity is to achieve continuous, long-term parental involvement. Activities and workshops aimed at building capacity (ie, Literacy Night, Math and Science Workshop, Reading and Homework Support) will be offered to parents to improve academic achievement through school and district initiatives. HISD will coordinate these efforts and strategies with other federal and state programs in various ways.

**AGREEMENT OF THE SCHOOL AND THE PARENTS**

The School-Parent Compact is an agreement that defines how parents, staff and students will share responsibility for improving academic achievement. Each school must share with parents the responsibility for achieving high student academic achievement through the cooperative and collaborative creation of the School-Parent Compact.

Schools will send families a copy of the School-Parent Compact with a list of responsibilities. Teachers, parents and students will have specific responsibilities to ensure that the student achieves his or her goals. Student responsibilities vary by grade. Communication between parents and school personnel should be conducted in a language that parents can understand.

Discussion of the School-Parent Compact is highly encouraged at all school functions. As stipulated by the United States Department of Education (USDE), in elementary schools the compact must be discussed at least once a year in parent-teacher conferences in relation to the personal performance of each student.

**PARENT ACTIVITY INVOLVEMENTS**

Parents can participate in their children's education in several ways. HISD appreciates the contributions made at home, at school and in the community. Reading to children at home and talking with them during family meals are just as important as volunteering at school and serving on an advisory committee. In a parent-school-community partnership, a variety of collaborative activities are required to achieve the success of all students. Each Title I, Part A school is responsible for creating opportunities for productive parental involvement in their children's education. To do this, parents are invited to participate in a variety of activities, such as the Read Houston Read program, PTA/PTO/PAC groups, and volunteering at school. For the protection of students, all volunteers must enroll in the Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) program.

**PROGRAMS TAILORED TO THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY**

TEvery year, HISD will use a variety of means to determine the needs of parents and children in the community. This process includes an annual district-wide consultation meeting required by the program to facilitate parent participation in the design, planning, and implementation of federal programs. In collaboration with the Department of Family and Community Engagement (FACE), parents will be offered a variety of workshops and programs created to improve their participation in their children's education and academic performance. Schools will notify parents when these opportunities arise. Furthermore, at any time parents may contact the External Funds Department or the school office to express interest in a particular workshop or to make suggestions.

**COMMUNICATIONN BETWEEN STAFF AND PARENTS**

In Title I, Part A schools, communication with parents is very important. To facilitate the best level of communication between parents and staff, the school can use the following strategies: monthly newsletters, notes, phone calls, emails, social media and podcasts. Communication between parents and the school should be in a language that parents understand, and to facilitate this communication, the district may offer school staff workshops to develop skills for productive communication with parents.

**ANNUAL TITLE I, PART A PARENT MEETING (ONE IS HELD FOR THE ENTIRE DISTRICT AND ONE AT EACH SCHOOL)**

Every year, a Title I, Part A parent meeting will be held separate from the Open House and any other parent meeting or school function. The district will provide schools with training on Section 1116 of Title I, Part A, and best practices for conducting annual Title I, Part A meetings, where parents are informed how the school uses its funds for activities. of parental involvement. The school will offer several meetings at times convenient to parents. The district requires that a minimum of 8 meetings be offered per year, four in the fall semester and four in the spring semester. Two of the fall meetings will be the Annual Fall Title I Meeting, and two of the spring meetings will be the Annual Spring Title I Meeting.

**EVALUATION**

In collaboration with parents, and seeking their input, HISD will conduct an Annual Consultation Meeting to evaluate the content and effectiveness of all federal programs. Additionally, the district will evaluate the Title I, Part A Parent and Family Engagement Program based on information obtained from parent surveys. The survey results will be used to measure the increase in parent involvement and to identify barriers to effective parent involvement. Each year following this annual review, HISD will review and update the Parent and Family Engagement Policy as necessary.

**CONCLUSION**

HISD is committed to engaging parents in all participating Title I, Part A schools. One of the core tenets of the district's ideology is “parents as partners,” and the Parent Involvement Program and Title I, Part A Family will support that principle by training and empowering parents, principals, and school and district staff.