HOUSTON ISD
KATE BELL ELEMENTARY
PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Kate Bell Elementary believes that parental involvement is an essential step in reaching the instructional objectives of our students. Home/school cooperation can help each student achieve his/her academic potential as well as develop responsibility and self-discipline. This combined effort of home and school can assist the student in improving classroom performance by extending learning beyond the classroom.

Kate Bell Elementary has established the following programs to encourage strong parental involvement at a school wide level:

- Meet the Teacher
- Open House
- Parent Teacher Organization
- Volunteers in Public Schools
- FACE Parent Academy
- Title I Parent Meetings

Kate Bell Elementary will implement these and other activities that will encourage parental involvement through our Title I Program. Individual staff personnel will assist in carrying out these activities as well as participate in workshops and meetings.

All activities will be in compliance with Houston Independent School District Parental Involvement Policies and Guidelines and the Texas Education Association. Parents will have adequate opportunity to participate in all segments of parent involvement activities.

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Kate Bell Elementary is committed to the education of the children in our community. We feel parent involvement is truly vital in ensuring that our students are successful in school. We believe that when parents are more involved in the academic process, education becomes more of a priority. Kate Bell Elementary strives to reach beyond expectations to produce a community of life-long learners. We pledge to maintain an effective line of communication from school to home and our goal is to provide sufficient opportunities for parental involvement throughout the school year.

A. POLICY INVOLVEMENT

1. Kate Bell Elementary convenes with an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to inform parents of the school’s participation in Title I, Part A programs and to explain the Title I, Part A regulations and rights of our parents to be involved in Title I, Part A programs. All parents are invited and highly encouraged to attend.

2. Kate Bell offers a flexible number of meetings in the mornings, afternoons or evenings in which parents are invited to participate in various meetings and activities over the course of the school year. An Open House is held in September to provide parents the opportunity to formally visit their child’s classroom to become better informed about grade level expectations and their academic progress.
Parents will be invited to participate in parent-teacher conferences to discuss their child's progress. In order to accommodate parents, we provide early dismissal days in which the parents may come to the school to speak with the teacher regarding the progress of their child.

3. Kate Bell Elementary involves parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning review and improvement of the school parental involvement policy. An organized PTO has been established in our school to create a forum for parental input and participation.

4. Kate Bell Elementary provides parents of participating children timely information about Title I, Part A programs. Our school communicates with parents the state's curricular and assessment expectations, school wide requirements in relation to the delivery of instruction, the techniques utilized to evaluate student work, and individual classroom routines pertinent to the academic success of our students. We use a variety of communication such as Wednesday communication folders, parent call outs and text messages, parent/teacher conferences, PTO meetings, individual notes/calls home, individual contact through teacher e-mails, surveys, Open House, progress reports, report cards, benchmark results, reading fluency scores, school sign, etc. to solicit parent participation and deliver important information. Computers are available for parents to use in our library daily. Our goal is to create productive dialogue between home and school concerning improvement of student achievement.

5. Kate Bell Elementary will take action to provide timely notice when their child has been assigned or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified. This will be provided to parents in the form of a parent letter.

B. Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement

The education of our students is not only the responsibility of the teacher, but also of the parent and the child. For this reason, a School-Parent-Student Compact has been developed and is utilized in our school. This document serves as an agreement between parents, teachers, and students that they will mutually cooperate in the implementation of the responsibilities necessary for student success. The compact is reviewed at the beginning of each school year. Our hope is that the School-Parent-Student Compact can be 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. Building Capacity for Involvement

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among Kate Bell Elementary parents and the community to improve student academic achievement, each school and local educational agency assisted under this part

1. Shall provide assistance to the parents of children served by the school or local educational agency, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the state’s academic content standards and state student assessments, the requirements of this part, and how to monitor a child’s progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children;

Our school will provide for this provision as stated in the Policy Involvement and Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement sections of this document.

2. Shall provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children’s achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement;

Our school will provide for this provision as stated in the Policy Involvement and Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement sections of this document.
3. Shall educate teachers, personnel, principals and other staff in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school;

Faculty and staff members will be cognizant of educational research on parent involvement. Parental input will be solicited throughout the year in meetings, through surveys, and during one-on-one conferences. Information derived will be utilized to strengthen the ties between school and home for the purpose of increasing student achievement.

4. Shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents can understand.

Our school has made it a practice to send home school correspondence in English and Spanish to ensure all information related to our school is understandable for our parents.

D. Participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents of children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children

Parents of all students, regardless of English proficiency, mobility, or disability, are considered to be an important part of the Kate Bell Elementary learning community. All parents are given the opportunity to be involved in their child’s school environment. For this reason, if a special need is identified that would help a parent to more fully understand the educational process and the academic progress of his/her child, assistance will be provided to that parent. This type of support often comes in the form of interpreted school documents in the parent’s primary language, having an interpreter on hand to translate important information at school wide meetings and events, working with an interpreter to provide translation in parent/teacher conferences, providing easier accessibility to parents and/or students with disabilities, etc.

We are here to support and accommodate all our parents and children for a successful school year.

Last revised September 2018