Scarcborough Elementary Parental Involvement Policy

September 27, 2018

Statement of Purpose
Scarcborough ES is committed to engage parents, community members, and businesses in partnerships that support student achievement. The goal is to ensure that all of its students graduate from high school ready to succeed in the college or career of their choice. Scarcborough ES recognizes that parents are valued partners and they play an extremely important role in the educational process, serving as the child's first teacher in their early years of development. Therefore, Scarcborough ES encourages the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student learning and other school activities. Scarcborough ES wants parents to:

- Stay informed about your child’s academic progress.
- Work in partnership with school staff to help your child to achieve at the highest levels.
- Communicate to your child the importance of being prepared for college and a career.

The Scarcborough ES curriculum, which is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), includes non-negotiable objectives that must be taught at every grade level; however, individual schools are held accountable for innovative instructional programs and results. Every Scarcborough ES student will be provided equal access to rigorous instruction and academic programs. Scarcborough ES recognizes that some students may need extra assistance that is available through the Title I program to obtain high academic achievement. Scarcborough ES will include parents in appropriate decision-making opportunities to support student academic achievement.

Parental Involvement in Developing the Policy
Parents are valued partners in the educational process, serving as the child's teacher in the home. All school and district activities will give proper consideration to the involvement of parents. A Parent Advisory Council—consisting of parents, Title I Coordinators/Contact persons, administrators, members of the community, and other districtwide staff—will meet to update the school district's Parental Involvement Policy. The Parent Advisory Committee will be chosen from volunteers across all grade levels. The goal is to have parents play a vital role in the decision-making process for the Title I program.

Capacity Building and Coordination
Capacity building activities will be provided to increase student academic achievement through districtwide and campus efforts. The district will coordinate these efforts and strategies with other federal, state, and local programs in a variety of ways.

School-Parent Compacts
Each school must share responsibility with parents for improved student performance by developing, jointly with the parents, a school-parent-student compact. This compact must outline how parents, staff, and students will share responsibility for improved student academic achievement. Parents on each school's will be involved in designing these compacts. Parents will receive the compact from their child's school with a list of responsibilities that teachers, parents, and students will each have for helping students achieve their goals. Student responsibilities may vary by grade level. Parents and teachers are strongly urged to discuss the compact during conferences and with the students.

Types of Parental Involvement
There are many ways in which parents can become involved in their children's education. Scarborough ES values both the at-home contributions and those which take place at school and in the community. Reading to children at home and talking with them at family meals are as important as volunteering at school and serving on advisory committees. Many types of parental involvement are needed in a school-home-community partnership to ensure that all children succeed. Each Title I campus is responsible for creating meaningful ways for parents to be involved in their children's education.

**Matching Programs to the Needs of the Community**

Each year, Scarborough ES will determine the needs of parents and children in the community through a variety of measures. This includes an annual consultation meeting with parents to ensure that the Title I program will be tailored to meeting those needs. Workshops and other programs will be available for parents and schools to help form partnerships which will improve the involvement of families in order to increase student academic achievement. Parents will be notified about these opportunities through the individual schools. Parents may call Scarborough school's office (713-696-2710) at any time to express an interest in a workshop or to make other suggestions.

**Staff-Parent Communication**

Communication with parents will be consistent throughout the year. This may include a newsletter, parent notices, and activity packets sent home with children. Phone calls, conferences, and home visits will be scheduled as needed. Parents are encouraged to take the initiative in calling their child's teacher to monitor their child's progress as well as when they are concerned about a problem. They may also call the school office and ask for a translator for conferences. As much as possible, notices will be sent home in a language parents understand. Training on how to improve home-school communication will be available.

**Annual Meeting for Title I Parents (To be held districtwide and in each school)**

At the annual meeting for parents, information about Title I guidelines will be distributed. Parents will be given copies of the current Parental Involvement Policy and offered a chance to become involved in revising the policy as needed. Parents of students who receive Title I services will have input on how Title I funding will be used, including funds for parental involvement activities. Volunteers may serve on either the districtwide or individual school advisory council. Translation will be provided so that all parents may participate.

**Evaluation**

A districtwide Title I Advisory Council, which includes parent participation, will be involved in the process of school review and improvement. The goal is to evaluate the Title I schools in the district by collecting information in a variety of ways, including parent surveys, program evaluations and the school's report card. The survey will assess the level of increase for parental involvement and the barriers to effective parental involvement. Scarborough ES will revise its parental involvement policy on the basis of this annual review.

Furthermore, there will be an annual consultation meeting with parents for their review of the content of all of the district's federal programs. Parents' input will be used to improve the effectiveness of service delivery for each of the programs.

**Conclusion**

Scarborough ES is committed to ensuring that parents are partners in all Title I schools. "Parents as Partners" is one of the Core Values of the district's ideology and will be supported by the Title I Parental Involvement Program and promoted by building principals and other district and school staff.

Mirián Medina, Principal

Title I, Part A, Parental Involvement