

Kate Bell Elementary Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2020 – 2021

Through collaboration, mutual respect and rigorous instruction, Kate Bell Elementary is dedicated to educating all Pre-K through 5th grade students for college, career and life. Our goal is to establish partnerships with our parents and community members so that we can help our children become successful. We pledge to maintain communication between school and home and to provide many opportunities for our parents to be involved.

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

A “Meet and Greet” is held prior to the first day of school each year so that children and parents can meet the teachers.

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 rights of our parents to be involved. All parents are invited and highly encouraged to attend.

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. Parents will be invited to participate in parent/teacher conferences as needed to discuss their child’s progress. Parents can also request conferences by contacting their children’s teachers.

Parents are invited to participate in review and revision meetings to discuss the School Improvement Plan, the School/Parent/Student Compact and the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

Kate Bell Elementary holds a minimum of four flexible Title I parent meetings in the mornings, afternoons or evenings in which parents are invited to participate. Each of the four meetings is offered at two different times on two different days. We have also partnered with the Family and Community Engagement Department to provide workshops for our parents. We have earned Platinum certification as a Family Friendly School.

The Kate Bell Elementary School Parent Teacher Association was established to create a forum for parental involvement and participation. Our PTA affiliation firmly connects our school with parent involvement resources at the state and national level.

Kate Bell Elementary provides parents of participating students with a description and explanation of the curriculum, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.

In order to communicate effectively with parents, Kate Bell Elementary uses a variety of communication methods to deliver information and to encourage parent participation. These methods include:

- School calendars
- School website
- Class Dojo
- Parent call outs
- Communication folders
- Title I parent meetings
- Family and Community Engagement workshops
- Parent Teacher Association meetings
- School/Parent/Student Compact
- Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy
- Individual notes, emails and calls home
- HISD Connect
- Progress reports and report cards
- Surveys

SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HIGH STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

The education of our students is not only the responsibility of the teachers, but also of the parents and children. A School/Parent/Student Compact has been developed and is an agreement between teachers, parents and students that they will cooperate in the responsibilities necessary for student success. The compact is reviewed at the beginning of the school year. Our hope is that the compact can be used to encourage parents to become more involved in the educational process and to let them know that they are equal partners in their children's learning.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

To ensure meaningful involvement of parents and to support the partnership between school, parents and our community, Kate Bell Elementary will:

- Provide assistance to the parents of our students in understanding such topics as the state's academic content standards and the state's student achievement standards.
- Provide materials and training to assist parents working with their children to improve their children's achievement.
- Educate teachers, staff and student support personnel in how to communicate effectively with and work with our parents as equal partners. Parent input will be solicited throughout the year in meetings, through surveys from the FACE Department

and Title I and during conferences. Information obtained will be used to strengthen the ties between school and home in order to increase student achievement.

- 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. Kate Bell Elementary has made it a practice to send correspondences in English and Spanish to ensure all information related to our school is understandable.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Parents of all students, regardless of English proficiency, mobility or disability, are an important part of the Kate Bell Elementary learning community. All parents are given the opportunity to be involved in their children's education. 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 the parent. This type of support comes in the form of interpreted school documents in a 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, having parent resources available in English and Spanish and participating in events to better understand the culture of the students served.

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