If students are to be successful, their parents or guardians must be actively involved in their education. Lyons Elementary School developed this policy to describe how we involve parents in the development of policy and the School-Parent Compact; to help parents to help their children achieve in school; and to make sure parents with limited English proficiency or disabilities can participate in their children’s education. This policy was developed with the assistance and approval of the parents of children participating in the Title 1 program, as well as Title 1 personnel.

POLICY INVOLVEMENT: Each year, we invite the parents of all children who participate in the Title 1 program to a meeting. At the meeting we discuss Title 1 law, its requirements, and the rights and benefits to parents of children involved. We help the parents to attend the meeting by providing fliers and reminders of the meeting date. We explain how parents can be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of Title 1 programs, including contributing to this parental involvement policy.

PROGRAM INVOLVEMENT: At this meeting or at other times throughout the year, we give parents of participating children timely information about our Title 1 programs, including reading/math tutorials, and summer school. We describe and explain the curriculum in use at the school, we explain our expectations for students, and we explain how we measure student performance. We explain how each individual child and our school, are doing on state tests such as the STAAR, and other measures of performance such as Iowa, NWEA MAP testing in reading, math, and science. We explain the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet. We hold monthly meetings to respond to parent suggestions, have parents make suggestions and share experiences with other parents, and participate in decisions concerning services offered and VIPS opportunities. We use a variety of communicative techniques such as our Student Handbook, School Newsletter, School Website, Communication Folders, Connect Ed, Parent Teacher Conferences, Open House, Progress Reports, Report Cards, Benchmark results, and Fluency scores to solicit parent participation and deliver important information.

If the School-wide Program Plan is unsatisfactory to the parents, the school submits parents’ comments to the Department of External Funding and revises the plan as advised by the HISD Title 1, Part A Parental Involvement Program Administrator and other District designees as advised.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT: The School-Parent Compact was developed jointly with parents of participating Title I students and explains how parents, the entire school staff, and the students will all share responsibility for
improved student academic achievement, and how the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State’s high standards.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT: To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, we will build the schools’ and parents’ capacity for strong parental involvement by implementing the following activities:

• Assisting parents in the understanding of the TEKS, STAAR, and the district’s assessments, and how to monitor a child’s progress, and how to work with teachers to improve achievement of their children.

• Providing materials and training to help parents work with their children - materials and training are provided to help parents help their children, such as Family Science Night, Math and Literacy night, G/T Socials, Open House, scheduled conferences between teachers and parents and other school functions.

• Educating teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, 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.

• Will to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other community based early learning programs - the development of school-business partnerships that include activities for parents is encouraged. Community based organizations and businesses are given information about opportunities for working with parents. We contact churches, local businesses, and specific social clubs, to assist with parental and student involvement.

• Ensuring 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 the parent can understand. Participation and involvement of all parents is important. Information related to student achievement, school performance, school and parent programs, meetings and other opportunities for participation is sent home in the home language whenever possible. Some of the standard information sent home in Spanish includes this policy, School-Parent Compact, announcements, newsletters, report cards, school profiles, and student test results. We ensure the ability of parents with disabilities to participate by providing handicapped access to classrooms and buildings where meetings are held.

• Providing reasonable support for parental involvement activities, such as parent resource centers that encourage and support parents to be involved.

• This year we will add a new parent committee who will meet once in the fall and once in the spring.

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Olivia A. Cásares, Principal              Ebony Nzei, Title 1 Coordinator