



## Phillis Wheatley High School

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Principal: Mr. Joseph Williams, Sr.

2020-2021

The Houston Independent School District

### Parent and Family Engagement Policy

If students are to be successful, their parents or guardians must be actively involved in their education. Wheatley High 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 I program, as well as Mr. Joseph Williams, Sr., Principal, Mrs. Elena SilvaLeal, Title 1 Administrator, and Ms. Carla Brown, Title I Contact/Parent Liaison.

**Policy Involvement,** October 8, 2020, during Wheatley's Annual Title 1 Open House and Wheatley's other parent meetings, we invited the parents of all children to provide input at our parent meetings. Additional PAC meetings will be held on several different days and times throughout the year, and parents have a choice of which to attend. At the meetings we discuss Title I, Part A law, its requirements, and the rights and benefits to parents of children involved. We help the parents of Title I students to attend these meetings by providing child-care here at school. We explain how parents can be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including contributing to the parental involvement policy and recommendations for school improvements and other parent concerns. Other opportunities for parents include Open House, and PAC (Parent Advisory Committee) Meetings, Internet Safety Night, Conversations with the Principal, Grade Level Parent Meeting, Family Education Night, College Casserole Night, Night of Fine Arts, Parent College Tours, and more.

**Program Involvement.** At parent meetings throughout the year, we give parents of participating children timely information about our Title I programs, including curriculum, tutorials, after school programs, family nights, Parent Advisory Committee/Council (PAC), adult education classes, parent gatherings for informal discussions regarding the challenges of parenting, TAKS/EOC/STAAR, graduation plans, and special teaching strategies being implemented at Wheatley High School. We describe and explain the District's new ASPIRE model, curriculum, explain our expectations for student growth, and we explain how we measure student progress. We explain how each individual child and the school are doing on summative assessments such as the TAKS/EOC/STAAR and other measures of performance such as Stanford and ACT/SAT, and others. In addition, we discuss grades and formative assessments used to measure student progress. We hold parent meetings to distribute written communications and offer parent and family classes and activities. Many of the opportunities provided on campus are in response to parent suggestions. Through parent meetings, parents are able to participate in decisions concerning school policies and programs.

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 District, campus committee, and/or other designees as determined by the Title I, Part-A Program in the Houston Independent School District.

**School-Parent Compact.** The School-Parent Compact was developed jointly with parents of participating Title I students and explains how parents, school staff/faculty, and the student will all share responsibility for each student's academic success.

**Building Capacity for Involvement.** It is part of the role of Wheatley High School to teach parents how to help their children learn. One way this is done is by explaining education laws. Parents are given information about the National Education Goals, Title I requirements, Texas content and performance standards such as the TEKS and EOC (End of Course). In addition, Family Nights focus on helping families support the core areas of instructions including science, math, reading, and social studies. Parent gathering opportunities such as brown bag lunches provide parents information focused on parenting skills.

**Parent Training and Involvement.** Presentations are done to help parents know if a child is doing well, how parents can work with educators to help their children, and how to be involved in decision-making about the education of their children. Materials and training are provided to help parents help their children, such as adult ESL classes, Internet Safety Night, Grade Level Parent Meetings, Family Education Night, Parent College Tours, PowerUp Parent Night, Parent Connect (Power School), other activities to include PAC Meeting, VIPS Training, and more.

Training is also given to teachers and other staff members. The school staff is taught the importance of involving parents, parents as partners, programs for parents, and building ties between home, school and community. Other examples include meetings with community partners and family advocacy groups. When possible, parents are involved in the development of this training. Our school strives to coordinate parental involvement activities among the different programs available on our campus. Shared parental involvement activities are sponsored for Title I, multilingual parent education activities, and counseling education programs such as violence prevention and drug awareness.

The development of school business partnerships include activities for parents is encouraged. Community-based organizations and businesses are given information about opportunities for working with parents. We contact many local businesses, churches, schools, and organizations including Legacy, Fifth Ward HEB, Fiesta, Houston Community College, Prairie View University, Texas Southern University, University of Houston, and many others in conjunction with Houston Texans, and more.

**Accessibility.** 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 the school enrollment forms, free/reduced lunch applications, Parental Involvement Policy, School-Parent Compact, announcements, newsletters, report cards, school profiles, student test results, parenting booklets, etc. For parents whose home language is other than English or Spanish, our school uses translators in the community as often as possible.

We ensure the ability of parents with disabilities to participate by providing handicapped access to all buildings where meetings are held. We also provide reserved parking with handicap designation. Translators are provided at meetings as often as possible to accommodate parents with languages other than English.

Date Issued: October 8, 2020