



McNamara Elementary School
8714 McAvoy, Houston, TX 77074
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Toufic Elachkar, Principal

McNamara's Parent and Family Engagement Policy

McNamara Elementary School believes that parental involvement is a vital step in reaching the instructional objectives of our students. A home/school cooperative system will help each student arrive at his academic potential as well as develop responsibility and self-discipline. This combined effort of home and school assists the student in extending learning beyond the classroom to become college and career ready.

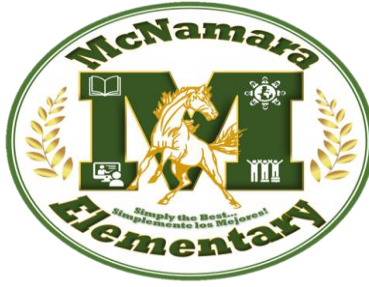
❖ Parent Involvement Policy

Our school holds an Open House / Title I Annual meeting with in the first four weeks of each school year. During this meeting parents are given a copy of the Title I Notification Letter and the previous school year School-Compact along with the Campus Parent and Family Engagement Policy to review. Additionally, the principal will give updates to parents on school progress status and test data. At this meeting the parents are provided the opportunity to formally visit their child's classroom to become better informed about grade level expectation.

Parents are invited to participate in the Title I Parent Meetings, Math and Science Night, Literacy Night, and Test Prep Night, along with other opportunities where they can receive information on the academic potential for their child/children. This is done to expose parents to the academic and testing system of the state and the school district.

Parents will be invited to participate in a parent-teacher conference at least twice a year to discuss their child/children's progress. Teachers may receive parents in the morning before school, during the school day and/or after school to accommodate as many parents as possible. Due to the varying schedules of our school community, efforts are made to provide training opportunities to parents by holding meetings during the school day and in the evenings.

McNamara Elementary School communicates regularly with parents: regarding 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 rituals and routines pertinent to the academic success of our students. We use a variety of communicative techniques including but not limited to School Calendars, Monthly Newsletters, Celebrations, Open House/Annual Title I Parent Meeting, Campus Parent and Family Engagement Policy, Parent School Compact, VIPs, Title I Parent Meetings, School Website, Twitter, Facebook, Progress Report, Report Cards, and Parent/Teacher Conferences to encourage parent participation and deliver important information in hopes of creating productive dialogue between home and school concerning improved student achievement thus creating college and career ready students.



❖ Parental Involvement Requirements

Parents of all students, regardless of English proficiency, mobility or disability, are considered to be an important part of our learning community. All parents are afforded the opportunity to be involved in their child's school environment. 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, along with having an interpreter to provide translation in parent/teacher conferences,

❖ Shared Responsibility for High Student Academic Achievement

Student education is not only the responsibility of the teacher, but also of the parent and child. For this reason, the Parent - School Compact has been developed and is utilized in our school. This document serves as an agreement between all parties that they will adhere to the duties and responsibilities which will ensure McNamara student's becoming college and career ready students. The Compact is 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 education.

❖ Building Capacity for Involvement

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership between the school, parents, and community with the goal of improving student academic achievement, McNamara Elementary School will do the following:

- 1. Provide assistance to parents for understanding such topics as the State's Academic Content Standards, The State Student Academic Achievement Standards, and State and Local Academic Assessments.** Our school will provide for this provision as stated in the Parent Involvement Policy and Shared Responsibilities for High Student Achievement sections of this document.
- 2. Provide materials and training.** Training such as Family Math Nigh, Literacy Night, Family Science Night, and training during Title I Parent meetings such as F.A.C.E. to assist parents in how to work with their child/children to improve their children's achievement.
- 3. Provide professional development for teachers, teacher assistances and other staff, with the assistance of parents, on how to reach out and communicate with parents as equal partners while building ties between parents and the school.** Parental input will be solicited throughout the year in Title I Parent meetings, through surveys and one-to-one conferences. Information derived will be utilized by the school's Administrative Team to strengthen the tie between school, home and the community to increase student achievement thus creating college and career ready students.
- 4. Provide information related about the school to parents.** The information about meetings and other activities is sent to the parents in a format and in a language parents can understand. McNamara Elementary has made it a practice to send home school correspondences in English and Spanish to ensure all information related to our school is understandable.