If students are to be successful, families must be actively involved in students' education. Walnut Bend Elementary is committed to providing a quality education for all students. We expose students to concepts that facilitate lifelong learning and value our parents/caregivers as partners in this educational process. Parents/caregivers play an extremely important role because they serve as the child's first teacher. It takes the home and school to assist the student in extending learning beyond the classroom and in improving classroom achievement. We need the support of all parents/caregivers for our students to achieve academic excellence.

Policy Involvement

Throughout the school year, we invite and encourage parents/caregivers of all children who participate in the Title I program to a series of meetings and family activities. Flexible meeting dates and times are set providing parents the opportunity to attend. These meetings and activities include Parent & Family Engagement Meetings (Title I), FACE, PTO Meetings, Open House, Meet the Teacher Night, Grandparents Day Celebration, Family Bingo Night, Family Learning Nights (Literacy, Math, and STAAR), Musical Productions, Family Festivals, and Parent Teacher Conferences.

At these meetings, we discuss Title I information, upcoming school events, and the rights and benefits to parents of children involved. The principal gives parents/caregivers an update on school test data, adequate yearly progress status, and facilitates a review of the school's improvement plan. Parents/caregivers are invited and encouraged to participate in parent-teacher conferences throughout the year to discuss their child's progress. Teachers may conduct these conferences by phone, in-person, or through the Microsoft Teams application.
Program Involvement

At these meetings, parents/caregivers are given timely information about our school programs, Reading and Math Interventions, afterschool tutorials, testing calendars, and a variety of other topics. We describe and explain curriculum, review our expectations for students, and explain how we measure student performance. The education of a student is not only the responsibility of the teacher, but also of the parent/caregiver and the child. For this reason, a School-Parent-Student Compact has been developed and is utilized in our school. This document serves as an agreement between all parties that they will adhere to certain duties and responsibilities to ensure the success of the student. It is reviewed and signed by all at the beginning of each school year. These compacts are also used to motivate students and parents/caregivers to become more involved in the educational process and to let parents/caregivers know that they are equal partners in their child's learning.

Parent Training and Involvement

Our school communicates with parents 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 all students. We use a variety of communicative techniques such as Microsoft Teams application, Power School Parent Portal, School Handbook, Classroom Newsletters, School Newsletters, Walnut Bend Elementary School Website and social media, ClassDojo, Parent/Teacher Conferences, Meetings for Special Populations, Houston ISD's FACE meetings, Parent University, PTO meetings, individual notes/calls home, Family Fun Nights, Surveys (paper and phone), parent workshops, Open House, Progress Reports, Report Cards, benchmark results, fluency scores, campus marquee, etc. to solicit parent/caregiver participation and deliver important information in hopes of creating productive dialogue between home and school concerning improved student achievement.

Walnut Bend Elementary will implement these and other activities that will encourage parent/caregiver involvement through the Title I Program. Staff will assist in carrying out these activities as well as participate in workshops and meetings.