

Fort Bend Independent School District



Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Fort Bend Independent School District will implement the statutory requirements. FBISD will:

- Put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents and families in all of its schools with Title I programs. Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and through meaningful consultation with parents and families of participating children.
- Develop the Parent and Family Engagement Policy jointly with parents of participating children. The policy will be distributed to parents and incorporated within the District Improvement Plan.
- Provide technical assistance to all Title I schools as they collaborate with parents to develop their campus Parent and Family Engagement Policies as well as their grade level School-Parent Compacts.
- Provide full opportunities for the participation of parents and families with children with limited English proficiency, children with disabilities, and migratory children.
- Provide information and school reports in a uniform format and in a language parents and families understand.
- Support its Title I A schools with coordination and technical assistance to build the school and parents' capacity for active parent and family engagement by promoting parenting skills, computer skills, family literacy and other activities that improve academic achievement.
- Involve the parents of children served in Title I schools in decisions about how Title I funds reserved for parent and family engagement are spent.
- Coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies for the Title I, Part A program with parent engagement strategies under other federal, state and local programs (early childhood, multilingual, special programs, etc.).
- Identify and assist with alleviating barriers to greater participation by parents and family members in activities of participating children at its Title I, Part A schools with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, or have limited English proficiency.
- Conduct with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy for improvement. The district will use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parent and family engagement and to revise, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policies. Findings will be available to campus leaders to share with stakeholders.
- Be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parent and family engagement means the participation in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring parents and families—play an integral role in assisting their child's learning; are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; and are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;

Statement of Purpose

The Fort Bend Independent School District is dedicated to providing a quality education for every student in our district. In support of the district mission to inspire and equip all students to pursue futures beyond what they can imagine, Fort Bend ISD will develop and nurture partnerships with parents/caregivers, students, and community stakeholders.

Policy Development

The Fort Bend Independent School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

- Establish a district parent and family advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs; and
- Coordinate a district meeting with parents/caregivers/families, community members and campus personnel to provide feedback and input on campus plans, policies and budget allocations.

Fort Bend Independent School District will take the following actions to involve parents and families in the joint development of its district/school parent and family engagement policy:

- Actively recruit parents/caregivers/families to participate in parent advisory capacity;
- Schedule meetings at convenient and flexible times and locations to participate in a comprehensive review of policy, budget and activities for parent and family engagement; and
- Facilitate communication between parents/caregivers/families and Title I campuses through Parent and Family Engagement Centers operated by full time Parent Educators.

Title I Annual Parent and Family Meeting

The Fort Bend Independent School District uses Title I funds to provide school-wide services for all students enrolled on Title I campuses. In an effort to keep parents and families informed, the Title I campuses will hold at least one meeting annually to review Title I guidelines and services offered at the campus level. The meeting will be held at a convenient time and location. In addition, notice of the meeting will be provided through public announcements and school based information flyers. To ensure a high level of parent and family engagement, translators will be available to help with non-English speaking parents / caregivers. Parents and families who attend the meeting will receive copies of the district's current Parent and Family Engagement Policy and campus designed grade level Parent/Family/Student Compacts in both English and in Spanish.

Fort Bend Independent School District is committed to collaborating with parents and families regarding decisions related to their child's education. Therefore, the district will, with the assistance of its Title I schools:

- Provide training and materials that assist parents and families with supporting their child with academic achievement; i.e. literacy and technology training; and
- Assist parents/families with arranging school meetings between teachers or other staff members.

The Fort Bend Independent School District will build the schools' and parents'/families' capacity for strong parent and family engagement by deepening understanding of the following topics:

- The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills;
- The State Assessment System;
- The District's Curriculum;
- Strategies to monitor their child's progress;
- Strategies to effectively communicate with school personnel; and
- Title I requirements.

Matching Parent and Family Engagement Programs to the Needs of the Community

The Fort Bend Independent School District will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under Title I for the following programs: Head Start, preschool programs, English Language classes, and parent and family engagement programs. Each year, Fort Bend ISD will determine the needs of parents and children in the community through a variety of measures. This includes a districtwide annual meeting, which is required for parents to consult in the design, planning and implementation of its parent and family engagement programs. A variety of workshops and programs will be made available to parents to improve the involvement in their child's education and academic achievement by the campus parent educator. Parents will be notified about these opportunities through the schools. Parents may also contact the campus parent educator at any time to express an interest in a particular type of workshop or to make other suggestions.

Heart to Heart is a meeting / networking opportunity for non-profit organizations to engage with Fort Bend ISD in efforts of forming a better crisis support system for our students and families. There will be a presenter from the District who will provide you pertinent information. In addition, a Non-Profit organization will share more about their area of service. Various District stakeholders attend these meetings. All non-profits, interfaith entities, parent engagement organizations, and / or any other agency that falls within the goals of these meetings are welcomed to attend.

Staff/Parent/Family Communications

The Fort Bend Independent School District will educate its teachers, student services personnel, principals and other staff, with the assistance of parents, on methods of reaching out to, communicating with, and working with parents/families as equal partners. In addition, the staff will learn about the importance and value of parents'/families' contributions along with ways to coordinate and integrate federal, state and local programs that strengthen ties between parents/families and schools.

All Title I campuses will take the actions listed below to ensure consistent and clear communications to the parents of participating children.

- Translating material for Spanish speaking parents/families; and
- Ensuring that the district call out system is set up in both English and Spanish.

Through these actions, all schools create an environment where parents/families of Limited English Proficient students, student with disabilities, and migratory students are afforded opportunities for participation and engagement in their child's education.

School-Parent/Family Compacts

As a component of the school-level parent and family engagement policy, each school shall jointly develop grade level school-parent/family compacts that outline how parents/families, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The grade level compacts will be provided by each Title I campus. The parent and family compacts will be reviewed yearly for updates and revision.

Evaluation

The Fort Bend Independent School District will take action to conduct, with the involvement of parents and families, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the quality of Title I schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers and providing engagement activities with particular attention to parents/families, who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. The school district will use the findings from the evaluation of its parent and family engagement practices to monitor and adjust its parent and family engagement plan for continuous improvement.