

Big Spring ISD Parent and Family Engagement Policy

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The mission of the Washington Elementary, in partnership with the community, is to graduate all students with the skills and values to compete successfully as life-long learners in society by addressing the needs and recognizing the worth of each student through a coordinated program of instruction in a safe, disciplined environment. To help accomplish this, the district will provide increased opportunities for teachers, parents and the community to become full partners in the education of its children. Each campus will encourage and support parent and community involvement in campus activities in an effort to increase self-esteem and to promote positive attitudes toward school. The district believes that a successful education system is directly related to a strong, dedicated, and supportive family and that parental involvement in the school is essential for the maximum educational achievement of a child.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The Washington Elementary parent advisory team is comprised of teachers, paraprofessionals, parents, community/business representatives, school district administrators, a counselor and/or non-classroom professional, and the campus administrators. This committee designs, provides guidance for implementation, and evaluates the District/Campus Improvement Plan. The goal of parent and community engagement is an integral part of the District/Campus Plan, and is directly monitored by this committee. Selected parent volunteer coordinators will represent our district/campus at meetings and training opportunities at the district level, with the district parental involvement coordinator and federal programs director, to communicate and keep the staff and parents of our students informed and involved in opportunities, decisions, and programs offered by Washington Elementary.

ANNUAL MEETINGS FOR TITLE I PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

Washington Elementary uses Title I funds to provide school-wide services for all students. Each campus will hold at least two meetings annually to review Title I guidelines and services offered through the district and at each campus. Copies of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be provided on the website and at the first Title I meeting in August/September; campus Parent-Student Compacts will also be distributed to parents or guardians during this Title I meeting. Copies will also be provided during required elementary parent conferences within the first six weeks of school annually. If students do not begin the year in BSISD, they will receive both of these documents upon the enrollment of their child(ren). Parents will be encouraged to become involved in revising and updating the policy as necessary, and parent volunteers will be recruited for the various committee appointments.

These meetings will be held at a convenient time and location; notice of the meeting will be provided through written invitations to parents/caregivers and through public notices. Translators will be available to help with non-English speaking parents/caregivers.

PARENT/STUDENT COMPACTS

In accordance with Title I regulations, Washington Elementary has developed and will annually update a parent-student compact. This compact provides an outline to enable the school and parents/caregivers to share responsibility for student performance and success. This compact explains how students, parents/caregivers, and staff will share responsibilities for promoting student achievement.

Compacts are designed so that both the student and his/her parent(s) can sign. Students and parents are encouraged to discuss the contents of the compact, sign that they are in agreement, and return the compact to school. In addition, teachers and administrators will also sign the agreement as partners with students and parents in the educational experience for students.

PARENT and FAMILY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Washington Elementary will encourage and support parental involvement as it strives to develop and maintain an optimal learning environment for all students.

- Spanish translators will be provided for parents when needed.
- Information will be provided in Spanish when needed.
- Parents may contribute through volunteer programs, or through our *Parents in Action* (parental involvement organization).
- Parents may contribute by creating a supportive home environment.
- Parents are invited to participate in parent-teacher conferences/home visits.
- Parents are invited to plan and conduct parties and field trips.
- Parents may participate by attending school meetings (Title I, planning sessions, student programs, parent training meetings, etc.).
- Parents are invited to serve on committees.
- Parents are surveyed to get their input about school issues.
- Parents are invited to eat meals with their children.
- Parents are invited to be involved in special programs (Texas Public School Week, Book Fair, Home Reading, awards/recognition programs, etc.).
- Parents are kept informed through monthly/weekly newsletters from the campus principal and/or a campus/district website.
- Parents are invited to “Meet the Teacher” before school begins in the fall.
- Parents may be invited to speak at school-wide assemblies, individual classrooms, and career emphasis days.
- Parents are invited to volunteer in the classrooms.
- Parents are invited to participate in Family Night activities.

STAFF AND PARENT COMMUNICATION

Parents/caregivers will be informed of school activities through various avenues of communication throughout the school year; they will be consulted, informed and involved in the implementation of the Title I program.

Newsletters, teacher notes, the school marquee, conferences, personal contacts, phone calls, home visits, written notices, as well as strategies implemented by the campus parent volunteer coordinator will be used to establish and maintain open lines of communication with parents/caregivers.

Our campus staff members are trained in positive communication strategies, as well as effective ways to work with parents, students and members of the community. In addition, a record of parent contacts/involvement throughout the school year will be maintained.

EVALUATION

The district/campus parent advisory team will review and evaluate all aspects of the parent involvement program. Parental feedback will be recorded throughout the year and discussed at the end of the school year. The results of this feedback will help us evaluate the goals set forth in the Parental and Family Engagement section of our District/Campus Improvement Plan, as well as this Parent and Family Engagement Policy.