

Harper ISD District-Wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy

HISD MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS

Mission

In collaboration with our families and community, Harper ISD will provide a safe, caring, and challenging educational environment. Staff members are valued for their individual contributions, and students are supported to rise to high expectations of individual excellence.

Vision

Harper ISD will foster a culture of excellence that prepares all students for postsecondary success and will inspire a culture of performance excellence and foster academic price.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this parental involvement policy is to promote a school-home partnership that will help all students on all campuses succeed. Establishing positive partnerships with parents and the community is vital to the attainment of this goal. Home and school must come together to create the optimal environment for student growth. Parents play an extremely important role as their children's first teachers, and continual support for their children and for the school is critical for their children's success every step of the way. When home and school work together, everyone benefits.

Harper ISD receives District-wide Title I funding and our Title I programs span across all campuses. Our district vision is to "foster a culture of excellence that prepares all students for post-secondary success." We recognized that some students may need the extra assistance available through the Title I program, as well as other programs, to reach their grade-level goals, and we are committed to providing an exceptional educational experience for all students.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Harper ISD agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I programs. Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- The school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the Title I requirements, and include, as a component, a school parent compact of achievement.

- The school district will incorporate this district-wide parental involvement policy into its district plan.
- In carrying out the Title I parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents with children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

- (A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
- (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- (C) that parents 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*

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN

1. *Harper ISD will involve parents in the joint development of the district's parental involvement plan [Section 1112] and the process of school review and improvement [Section 1116].*

Harper ISD intends to include parents in all aspects of the district's Title I Program, Parental Involvement Policy, and District Improvement Plans. The goal is a school-home partnership that will help all students in the district succeed. Parents and district personnel will meet to develop our district's Parental Involvement Policy and District Improvement Plan. Parents will be invited from each school campus in our district to be part of the process. Special attention will be given to recruiting parents of children participating in the Title I Program.

2. *Harper ISD will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.*

Harper ISD and the District Programs Coordinator/Parent Involvement Facilitator will provide support and training to principals and teachers to promote the parent involvement activities.

3. *Harper ISD will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parent involvement as described in section 1118(e).*

In order to build a strong home-school partnership, Harper ISD, with cooperation of the campuses, will provide the following:

- An annual meeting where parents will learn about the requirements of the school's Title I program, and be given an opportunity to become involved with their child's education. The annual meeting will be held during the first and second semester. A notice will be given, informing parents of the date and time.

- Parent meetings and conferences held at different times during the day to accommodate the needs of the parents. Communications with parents will be in a format and a language that they can understand. Title I funds may be used to pay for any reasonable and necessary expenses such as child care, transportation, or home visit expenses, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
- A description and explanation of the curriculum used, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress (benchmarks, mClass, Amplify Reading, I-station, etc.), and proficiency levels students are expected to meet, will be provided to parents through a letter or conference.
- Assistance to parents in understanding the state’s academic content standards, known as the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and the state student achievement standards based on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR), will be communicated through school-wide meetings and on-line resources.
- A school-parent compact for achievement designed by parents and school staff that outlines how parents, the entire campus staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improvement in student academic achievement.
- At the elementary, a minimum of one scheduled parent conference where the school-parent compact for achievement will be discussed as it relates to the progress of the student, as well as the expectations for the grade level school curriculum, test information, and any other concerns the teacher or parent may have.
- Parents will have the opportunity to help review, plan for and make suggestions to improve the Title I program, as well as the Parental Involvement Policy and the School Parent Compact for Achievement. One meeting will be scheduled in the summer, one meeting will be scheduled in the fall, and one meeting will be scheduled in the spring.
- Appropriate parent participation opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to their child’s education, if requested by the parent. Parents may request a meeting with the principal by phone, e-mail or in writing. In addition, parents may attend the scheduled meetings.
- Information relating to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities will be sent to parents in a timely manner. Information will be given to parents through the district’s website, PTO newsletter, and from the classroom teacher. In addition, the “School Alerts” phone call/e-mail/text system will be used to inform parents of dates of programs, meetings and activities.
- Materials and specific training to help parents work with their children to improve achievement. Parents and community members are always welcome to request resources and collaborate on ideas for helping improve student achievement.

4. *Harper ISD, to the extent feasible and appropriate, will coordinate and integrate Title I, Part A parental involvement strategies with parental involvement strategies under other programs, such as our preschool program, through joint meetings and parent nights.*

5. *Harper ISD, with the involvement of parents, will conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the District Title I Parental Involvement Policy with regard to: 1.) improving the academic quality of the Title I, Part A schools; and, 2) identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities of Title I, Part A school authorized by section 1118, giving particular attention to parents who:*

- *are economically disadvantaged*
- *are disabled*
- *have limited English proficiency*
- *have limited literacy*
- *are of any racial or ethnic minority background*

District personnel, in collaboration with parents, will evaluate the parental involvement activities and the Parental Involvement Policy. Results from the evaluation will be used in making necessary revisions to ensure on-going efforts for effective parental involvement.

6. *Harper ISD will involve parents in the activities of Title I, Part A schools.*

Timely communication and an inviting atmosphere will enhance parent involvement across all campuses in our district. Parents will receive information that will detail the activities of the school, and will be asked to participate. Activities throughout the year include Meet the Teacher Night, Open House, monthly PTO meetings, parent/teacher conferences, numerous extracurricular opportunities, Site-based meetings, and more. Schools may use communication strategies such as personal contact, newsletters, notes sent home with the students, our district website, and e-mail/text to invite parents to participate in the school's activities. Whenever necessary, childcare and language interpreters will be provided. Parents and community members are always welcome at our schools. By working together and making suggestions to improve our schools, we can support all of our students to be successful learners.

Comuníquese con la escuela para obtener ayuda con la traducción de este documento.