

Maxdale Elementary School

Title I Campus Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2020-2021

Statement of Purpose

Three decades of research provide convincing evidence that parents are an important influence in helping their children achieve high academic standards. When schools collaborate with parents to help their children learn and when parents participate in school activities and decision-making about their children's education, children achieve at higher levels. In short, when parents are involved in education, children do better in school and schools improve.¹

Maxdale Elementary School is committed to providing a quality education for every child. It is our mission to teach so that all students learn at higher levels. Our aim is to establish a partnership with parents and the community to promote high achievement for our students. We believe that the parent's role in education is critical to a child's success.

Title I Schoolwide Program

The purpose of a schoolwide program is to improve academic achievement throughout schools having at-risk populations so that all students, but particularly the lowest-achieving students, can meet the State's academic standards. Title I provisions stress: shared accountability between schools and parents; ensuring parents have information needed to make well-informed choices for children; informing parents about their child's academic strengths and how to help children; sharing input into academic programs.

Title I Annual Meeting

Each fall our annual Title I meeting is held. This meeting is held at flexible times and dates that are convenient to parents. All parents and families are invited to attend. We want everyone to know about Title I and how we use these funds to ensure that students are successful. Parents will be invited to participate in this annual meeting to learn about Title I requirements, "Parents Right to Know" and the rights of parents to be involved in Title I programs, the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, information about the school's curriculum, information on academic assessment used to measure student progress, the Home-School Compact, STAAR performance, and information on expected proficiency levels.

Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Home-School Partnership Compact – Shared Responsibility for High Student Academic Achievement

A review of our current Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Home-School Compact is conducted every spring. Parents and family members are a crucial, required part of this process as we meet to discuss and make any changes to these documents for the next school year. The Home-School Compact is a written agreement between the school and the parents of children participating in Title I programs that identifies the activities the parents, the school staff, and the students will undertake to share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement.

Each document is posted on our campus website so that parents, family members, and the community have access to them. Our website will allow you to translate any posted information into any one of 107 different languages. The parent policy is also made available during our Annual Title I meeting and is included in our student handbook. Teachers will contact parents to arrange a conference to share the Home-School Compact and to give you more information about your child's achievement. Parents have the right to participate in decisions relating to their child's education.

¹ Lewis, Anne C.; Henderson, Anne T., [Urgent Message: Families Crucial to School Reform, 1998](#)

Types of Parent Engagement

Parents may become involved in their children's education as:

- Teachers (helping the child at home)
- Supporters (contributing their skills to the school)
- Advocates (helping the child to receive fair treatment)
- Decision-Makers (participating in joint problem-solving with school at every level)

Within our professional learning community there are a variety of capacities through which you might be involved:

- Assisting with classroom activities
- Contributing to school-wide activities
- Serving as a reading buddy
- Serving on the Site-Based Decision-Making Committee
- Volunteering in classrooms
- Attending school functions
- Tiny Tots Early Literacy Program

Parent and Family Learning

During the school year the campus hosts a variety of meetings where parents can learn about the challenging Texas academic standards students will learn and assessments they will take. At the beginning of the year each grade level hosts a parent night where information is shared regarding topics students will learn during the year, how parents can monitor students' progress during the year, ways to support students' learning, and how to partner with teachers to support student learning. Parent conferences are held each semester and throughout the year to foster two-way communication between teachers and parents. We are planning to offer additional information sessions for parents over a variety of learning topics such as encouraging growth mindset, character education, supporting reading development, using technology to support student learning, math problem solving strategies, and more. You may send in suggested topics you have questions about or would like to learn more about to our parent liaison, Ms. Mary Flores, at 254-336-2460.

Staff-Parent Communication

Maxdale Elementary School will take an active role in establishing effective communication between staff and parents. Some of the methods used may include:

Conferences	Home visits	Parent meetings	Daily communication folders
Newsletters	Phone calls	E-mails	School web site
Flyers	On-line grade-books	Teacher web sites	Student Planners

Written materials will be sent home in English. Should you need any communications translated into another language, please contact the school office. We will do our best to accommodate your needs.

Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher whenever there is a concern. Contacts can be made through phone calls, notes, letters, e-mails, take-home folders, and student planners. Our parent liaison, counselors, and administration are also available to provide assistance whenever there is a need.

Title I Program Evaluation

An annual evaluation of our Title I program is conducted during the year by our Site-Based Decision-Making (SBDM) committee, which includes at least one parent representative. The SBDM Committee provides input on our Campus Improvement Plan (CIP) and assists in making decisions about how Title I funds are spent. If you would like to serve on the SBDM committee, please contact the principal, Ms. Evans. We value your opinions and welcome all parents who would like to serve. For parents unable to participate in the SBDM meetings, an annual evening meeting is held for the purpose of evaluating the plan and gaining parent input on changes for the upcoming year. If for some reason the CIP is not satisfactory to parents, parent comments about the CIP will be submitted to KISD.

Early Literacy Program

Families of our Maxdale students are invited to bring their children ages 0 to 4 years to our weekly Tiny Tots early literacy program. During Tiny Tots, our parent liaison provides activities that make learning a fun experience and gives parents tips on fostering literacy development at home.

Volunteer Orientation

At the start of every new school year, and throughout the year, our volunteer coordinator conducts a volunteer orientation to outline processes for volunteering on campus and related KISD policies. If you would like to volunteer, please contact our parent liaison at 254-336-2460.

Staff Awareness

Our campus staff receives training each school year about the value of parent and family member contributions at school. We stress how to reach out to build ties with and work with parents as equal partners to make sure that all students are successful in their learning. Our staff is kept up to date on our various parent programs, their role in the implementation and coordination of the programs, and how they can encourage parent and family participation.

KISD Parent and Family Member Classes

KISD offers classes free of charge for English as a Second Language, computers, and GED preparation. Empowered Parents workshops and the Parent Academy are also available. In addition, parents may attend and participate in the KISD Parent Advisory Council. Contact the Special Programs Department for more information at 254-336-0240.