

Alice W. Douse Elementary School
Parent and Family Engagement Policy
2024-2025

Alice W. Douse Elementary School staff takes pride in doing what is best for students while promoting a love of learning and academic growth. All parents and family members are welcomed and valued. At Douse, we are committed to fostering a solid foundation of knowledge so that all students become critical thinkers who live with integrity and are prepared for their role as responsible citizens of the future.

Communication - We believe communication between home and school is a two-way street. We stay in touch with parents and family members in several ways: weekly important dates, fliers, campus marquee, campus website, automated communication phone calls, notes, letters, emails, and direct phone calls. Parents and family members may contact us through phone calls, notes, letters, and emails. We strongly encourage parents to contact their student's teacher when there is a concern so that we can work together for the student's good. Please get in touch with the school office if we need to translate things into another language. We will do our best to accommodate you.

Annual Title I Meeting - Our Annual Title I meetings are in the Fall and Spring of the school year. Meetings are offered at flexible times and dates that are convenient to parents. All parents and family members are invited to attend. We want everyone to know about Title I and how we use these funds to ensure students' success. We will discuss the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, the Home-School Compact, "Parents Right to Know," and how you can be involved in your child's education. You will learn about the curriculum we use, academic assessments, and what our latest STAAR scores look like.

Title I Program Evaluation - Our Title I program is evaluated several times a year by our Site-Based Decision-Making committee, which must include at least one parent representative. SBDM provides input on our Campus Improvement Plan and assists in making decisions about how Title I funds are spent. If you want to participate in SBDM, please get in touch with Principal Ford. We value your opinions and welcome all parents who would like to serve. An annual meeting is held for parents unable to participate in SBDM to evaluate the plan and gain parent input on changes for the upcoming school year. For some reason, if the CIP is unsatisfactory, Principal Ford will submit your feedback to KISD.

Parent and Family Member Learning - We will help you understand the challenging Texas academic standards, give you information about STAAR and KISD assessments, explain how to monitor your child's progress, and how to work with teachers as a team to help your student. Other classes will offer ways to help your child at home, including staying current with new technology. We understand that our parents work, attend school, or have other responsibilities that limit their schedules. To encourage parent involvement, we strive to schedule key meetings at flexible times and dates, including morning and after-school sessions. Suggestions for learning topics are valued. If parents want to meet to make suggestions about their child's education, please get in touch with Principal Ford at (254) 336-7480, Stephanie.Ford@killeenisd.org.

Little Rattlers Early Literacy Group - Parents and community members are invited and welcome to bring children of the ages 2 – 4 years of age and not currently enrolled in school to our Little Rattlers Early Literacy Group. During Little Rattler's time, our Parent Liaison, Mrs. Cynthia Webster, provides activities that make learning a fun experience and gives parents tips on early reading activities at home. It's a great way to spend time with your child while learning. Our early literacy groups meet weekly. Contact Cynthia Webster at (254) 336-7480, Cynthia.Webster@killeenisd.org, for more information.

Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Home-School Compact - We need your help! We must review our current Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Home-School Compact every Spring. Parents and family members are crucial parts of this process. We meet to discuss and make any changes to these documents for the next school year. We must have your input. Publicity about this meeting will be available in January. Both documents are posted on our campus website so parents, family members, and the community can access them. Our website will allow you to translate any posted information into one of 107 languages. The parent policy is also made available during our Annual Title I Meeting and is included in our Student Handbook. The Home-School Compact is discussed during your first parent/teacher conference. Your child's teacher will also inform you about your child's achievements during the meeting. Parents have the right to participate in their child's education decisions.

Volunteer Orientation - At the start of every new school year and throughout the year, our volunteer coordinator conducts volunteer orientation to outline KISD policies. The Volunteer Coordinator will conduct the orientation on flexible days and times each month.

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

KISD Parent and Family Member Classes - KISD offers free classes 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 at (254) 336-0240.