

Ira Cross Jr. Elementary School
Parent and Family Engagement Policy
2023 - 2024

The staff at Ira Cross Jr. Elementary takes pride in doing what is best for our students while promoting positive parental and family involvement. We strive for effective two-way communication between the school and the home.

Communication We believe communication between home and school is vital. We stay in touch with parents and family members in several ways: student planners, weekly take-home folders, fliers, campus marquee, newsletters, campus website, Connect-Ed automated phone calls, notes, letters, emails and phone calls from a real, live person.

Parents and family members may contact us through phone calls, notes, letters, emails, weekly take-home folders and student planners. We strongly encourage parents to contact their student's teacher when there is a concern so that we can work together for the good of the student. Written materials will be sent home in both English and Spanish. If we need to translate things into another language, please contact the school office. We'll do our best to accommodate you.

Parent and Family Member Learning We'll 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 how to stay 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 and classes at flexible times and dates to include a morning and an afternoon/evening session. Send suggestions for learning topics to our Parent Program point of contact. If parents would like to have regular meetings to make suggestions about their child's education, please contact administration at 254-336-2550.

Early Learners Literacy Group Parents of Ira Cross students are invited to bring their younger siblings to our Early Learners Literacy Group. During Early Learners time, our parent liaison provides activities that make learning a fun experience and gives parents tips on early reading activities to do at home. It's a great way to spend time learning with your child.

Annual Title I Meeting Our annual Title I meetings are held in Fall and Spring of every school year. The meeting is offered at flexible times and dates that are convenient to parents. We want everyone to know about Title I and how we use these funds to ensure that students are successful. We 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'll 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 during parent involvement meetings. We address and review our Title I program and the Campus Improvement Plan. Changes are then reviewed by our Site Based Decision Making committee. SBDM provides input on our Campus Improvement Plan and assists in making decisions about how Title I funds are spent. If you would like to serve on SBDM, please contact the campus. We value your opinions and welcome all parents who would like to serve. For parents unable to participate in SBDM, two annual meetings are held for the purpose of evaluating the plan and gaining parent input on changes for the upcoming year. Note, if for some reason the CIP is not satisfactory to parents, parent comments about the CIP will be submitted to KISD.

Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Home-School Compact We must review our current Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Home-School Compact every spring and fall. Parents and family members are a crucial, required part of this process. We meet together 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 of these documents are 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. Your child's teacher will contact you soon to arrange a conference to discuss 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.

Volunteer Orientation At the start of every new school year, and throughout the year, our volunteer coordinator conducts a volunteer orientation to outline KISD policies. If you would like to volunteer, please contact our parent liaison, Maryann Pfaltzgraff at (254) 336-2550.

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 information¹ at 336-0240.