

Parental Involvement Policy

South Elementary

2010-2011

Statement of Purpose

A strong partnership between the school and home is essential if a quality educational program is to be provided to all students. South Elementary School is dedicated to the philosophy that parent involvement is integral to the success of each student. For this reason, parents are actively recruited as our partners for success. The parent involvement policy is reviewed and amended during the annual SBDM Title I evaluation and planning meeting, which is held during the spring. The policy will be distributed in the student handbook at the beginning of each school year.

The curricula for our grade level objectives are through C-Scope. These objectives cover on the TEKS for each core subject taught. *All* students will be expected to work toward mastering these objectives. Our campus recognizes the fact that some students will need extra assistance to achieve their full potential. The extra assistance is available to all students through the Title I program and various other educational services offered through the district.

South Elementary intends to include parents in all aspects of the Title I program. Students will be given every opportunity for success through the development and enhancement of the home-school partnership.

Parent Involvement in Developing Policy

South Elementary Site-Based Decision Making (SBDM) Committee is comprised of parents, community members, administrators, teachers, and other staff members. This committee will meet annually to discuss the design and implementation of the Parent Involvement Policy.

South Elementary will actively recruit volunteers for the SBDM Committee through various avenues of publicity. Committee selections will produce a diverse group of stakeholders that represent an array of student populations served by the district.

Meetings will be planned at convenient times and locations for all concerned parties. If a translator is needed, the campus will arrange for one to be present.

Parent Involvement Activities to Improve Student Academic Achievement and School Performance

One of the primary functions of the SBDM will be to identify ways that South Elementary can plan and implement effective parent involvement programs. The campus will also promote and encourage staff development for employees on establishing effective relationships with parents as a means to increase academic achievement.

The campus handbook will include:

- The campus' Parent Involvement Policy.
- Information on the parent's right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers.

During the school year, parents will also be provided with:

- Timely information about programs.
- A description and explanation of the school's curriculum, forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
- Information on the level of achievement of the parent's child in each of the required state academic assessments.
- Frequent reports on their child's progress.
- Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and observe.
- A Home-School compact that describes parents' and the schools' responsibilities.
- Parent-teacher conferences after the first six weeks.
- A flexible number of meetings, such as meeting in the morning or evening, and may provide, with Title I funds, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services are related to parental involvement.
- As necessary, timely notice if their child has been assigned or taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

Building the Schools' and Parents' Capacity for Strong Parent Involvement

South Elementary will involve the SBDM in identifying barriers to parent involvement and to provide parent involvement strategies. The campus will support a variety of parental involvement strategies as it strives to develop and maintain an optimum learning environment for all students. To the extent practicable, parents of LEP, disabled, and Migratory students will be given full opportunities to participate in parent involvement activities. Information will be provided, to the extent practicable, in a format and language such parents understand.

Annual Title I Parent Meeting: South Elementary will hold an annual meeting to review Title I guidelines and services offered through the campus. Copies of the campus' current Parent Involvement Policy and the South Elementary Home-School Compact will be distributed at the meeting. Parents will be encouraged to become involved in revising and updating the policy as necessary, and parent volunteers will be recruited for the district and campus SBDMs.

The meeting will be held at a convenient time and location; notice of the meeting will be provided through written invitations to parents and through public notices. If needed, a translator will be available to help with non-English speaking parents.

Home-School Compact: In accordance with Title I regulations, the campus will develop and annually update a home-school compact. This compact will explain how students, parents, and staff will share responsibility for student performance and success, and will enable them to do so. Members of the campus' SBDM Committee will be consulted in the design and implementation of the compact. All parents will be given a copy of the compact detailing the responsibilities that teachers, parents, and students have in helping students accomplish their goals. Students and parents are encouraged to discuss the contents of the compact. They are also encouraged to sign that they are in agreement with the compact and return them to the school; however, parents and/or students are not required to return the compacts to school.

Staff/Parent Communication: Parents will be informed of school activities through various avenues of communication throughout the school year. Newsletters, conferences, personal contacts, and written notices will be utilized to establish and maintain an open line of communication. The use of available technologies will be utilized as well. These include the website, Family Access to Skyward, and phone and email notifications through Phone Messenger.

Staff development will include strategies to promote effective parent involvement activities. Activities will educate all staff members in the value of parent involvement.

Cross-Program Coordination of Parent Involvement Activities

Parent Involvement strategies will be incorporated into South Elementary curriculum and programs through the Campus Improvement Plan. Parent Involvement will be a top priority and will be aligned with the entire educational program.

Annual Evaluation

The SBDM Committee will annually review and evaluate all aspects of the parent involvement program. Parent surveys including questions about the effectiveness of the program will be distributed and the results analyzed.

Teacher surveys and teacher contact logs will be used to determine the number and kind of interaction between schools and parents. The SBDM Committee will revise the campus Parent Involvement Policy and Home-School Compact based on the results of this annual review.

Involving Parents in Activities of Title I Campuses

South Elementary will use Title I funds to provide school wide services to all students of South Elementary. Parents will be involved in a variety of strategies as the campus strives to develop and maintain an optimum learning environment for all students. Parents may contribute through volunteer programs, as well as by creating a supportive home atmosphere. The community may participate through an array of activities that promote student success. The campus and its parents will develop and maintain specific parent involvement activities best suited to meet the individual needs of all stakeholders.