

SOUTHERN ELEMENTARY PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY



DEFINITION OF PARENT

The legal definition of a “parent” is a parent, stepparent, or foster parent of a student or a person who has legal custody of a student pursuant to a court order and with whom the student resides.

For the purposes of this policy we will use the term “parent” to encompass all diverse family situations.

COMMITMENTS

At Southern Elementary School we want each child to have a successful learning experience. In order for this to happen, we will develop and support a parent involvement process that demonstrates a parent-friendly environment, two-way communication between school and home, and parent outreach programs. A survey will be distributed to parents in the spring of each school year to determine if the focus of the Title I Parent Involvement Policy is still accurate.

All students at Southern Elementary are eligible to receive Title I services in any content area. Parents and school staff have agreed on and developed the following Parent Involvement Policy for Southern Elementary School, which will be posted in the school Family Resource Center and on the school website. Any additional suggestions will be considered for future revisions.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Our students’ parents, families, extended families, students themselves, as well as our local community are all considered partners who share responsibilities for high student academic achievement. Following are the responsibilities for the school, the parents, and the students:

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

In order to build an effective, successful home-school partnership, Southern Elementary School will provide the following:

1. Annual orientation meetings where parents will meet their child’s teacher, learn about the school’s participation in, and the requirements of, the Title I program and be given the opportunity to become involved in their child’s education.
2. Additional meetings and activities throughout the year, in conjunction with the P.T.A. and/or the Family Resource Center, to provide assistance to parents in understanding the Federal and State academic content and student achievement standards, as well as local academic assessments. Meetings will also concentrate on how parents and teachers can work together to monitor student progress in order to improve student achievement.
3. Information on training for parents/family members about the Site Based Decision Making (SBDM) practices and the SBDM committee involvement.
4. Materials and specific training for parents to assist them in working with children.
5. A varied schedule for meetings in order to accommodate the needs of parents (including home visits and/or off-site conferences).

6. A minimum of two scheduled parent conferences, where the progress of the student will be discussed as well as grade level expectations, school curriculum, testing information/results, and any other concerns the teacher or parent may have.
7. Newsletters informing parents of activities, programs, and other school-related timely information. Newsletters including parenting tips and suggestions will be provided. All invitations will be sent in a timely manner with an additional follow-up reminder.
8. A student-school-parent compact designed by parents and school staff that will outline how students, teachers, and parents share the responsibility for student achievement.
9. A minimum of two meetings during the school year where parents have an opportunity to help review, plan for and make suggestions to improve the Title I program, Parent Involvement Policy, and Parent-School Learning Compact.
10. A survey for parents to express opinions about the Title I program, as well as to list suggestions for improvement and topics for parent meetings.
11. Title I funds may be used to pay expenses associated with parent involvement activities to enable parents to participate in school related meetings and training sessions.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

As a parent, I will strive to:

1. Have high expectations for my child as an individual.
2. Send my child to school on time every day.
3. Communicate and work with teachers and staff to support and challenge my child.
4. Provide a quiet place for schoolwork and make sure work is done.
5. Use reading and math materials the school sends home each week to help my child.
6. Read to or with my child 15-20 minutes a day.
7. Play number, word, letter and sound games with my child every week.
8. Help my child use academic skills in their daily lives and to pursue his/her interests and goals.
9. Attend two Parent/Teacher Conferences during the school year.
10. Be involved in my child's classroom as much as possible.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

As a student, I will strive to:

1. Come to school each day on time with all materials I need to be successful in the classroom.
2. Do my class work and homework on time.
3. Be responsible for my own behavior and follow school rules and adult directions.
4. Show respect for myself, my school and others.
5. Let my teacher and family know if I need help.
6. Read on my own and with my family every day.
7. Work on my academic skills, using the materials my teacher sends home.
8. Be the best student I can be.

Parents and community members are always welcome at Southern Elementary School and every effort will be made to communicate with them.

POLICY EVALUATION

We will evaluate the effectiveness of this policy through our School Improvement Planning Process.

Date Reviewed or Revised: June 27, 2016

Date Reviewed or Revised: April 24, 2017

Date Reviewed or Revised: May 21, 2018