



Gunter I.S.D.'s District Wide Parental Involvement Policy

Note: In support of strengthening student academic achievement, each local educational agency (LEA) that receives Title I, Part A funds must develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents of participating children a written parental involvement policy that contains information required by section 1118(a)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (district wide parental involvement policy). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations for parental involvement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parental involvement activities, and is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the State educational agency (SEA).

Gunter I.S.D. believes that in order to achieve high standards of education we must develop and maintain a partnership between parents, students, and school personnel.

Purpose: This policy promotes understanding and cooperation by clarifying mutual and separate responsibilities and expectations. We understand that a child's education will reach its potential only if all in the partnership agree and meet their responsibilities. The policy also supports the fulfillment of federal and state parent involvement mandates.

The Gunter I.S.D. agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs. Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- The school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements and each includes, as a component, a school-parent compact.
- The school district will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.

- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring-

(A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.

(B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school:

(C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child:

(D) the carrying out of other activities such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.

Parent Involvement in Policy Development:

The Gunter I.S.D. District Improvement Committee is comprised of parents, members of the community, teachers, school paraprofessionals, the school principal, special programs coordinator, and the district superintendent.

The DIC will actively recruit volunteers for the advisory committee through various avenues of publicity. Committee selections will produce a diverse parent population that will include all student groups serviced by the district; Hispanic parents will be involved and the committee will arrange for translators to help with communications. Meeting will be planned at convenient times and locations for all members of the committee.

Annual Meeting for Title I Parents/Guardians:

Gunter I.S.D. uses Title I funds to provide school-wide services for all students. Gunter I.S.D. will hold at least one meeting annually to review Title I guidelines and services offered through the district. Copies of the district's current Parent Involvement Policy and the Parent-Student Compact for that campus will be distributed at the meeting. Parents will be encouraged to become involved in the revising and updating of the policy as necessary and parent volunteers will be recruited for the various district committee appointments.

The meeting will be held at a convenient time and location; notice of the meeting will be provided through written invitations to parents/guardians and through public notices. Translators will be available to help Non-English speaking parents/guardians.

Parent-Student Compact:

In accordance with Title I regulations, each Title I campus will be required to develop and annually update a parent-student compact. This compact will provide an outline to enable the school and parents/guardians to share responsibility for student performance and success. This compact explains how students, parents/guardians, and staff will share responsibility for promoting student achievement.

The compacts are designed so that both the student and his/her parents can sign the compact. 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.

Parental Involvement Opportunities:

Gunter I.S.D. will support many varied ways of parental involvement as it strives to develop and maintain an optimum learning environment for all students:

- Spanish translators will be provided for parents when needed.
- Information will be provided in Spanish when needed.
- Parents may contribute through volunteer programs.
- Parents may contribute by creating a supportive home environment.
- Parents are invited to participate in parent-teacher conferences.
- Parents are invited to help plan and conduct celebrations.
- Parents may participate by attending school meetings.
- Parents are invited and urged to serve on committees such as the District Improvement & Parent Advisory Group.
- Parents are surveyed to get their input about school.
- Parents are invited to eat meals with their children.
- Parents are invited to attend P.A.D.R.E.S. meetings.
- Parents may participate in the Gunter I.S.D./Grayson Cooperative ESL/EL Civics night class.
- Parents may participate in trainings through the school or service center that help develop skills to use at home to support their children's academic efforts & social development.

Staff and Parent Communication:

Parents/guardians will be informed of school activities through various avenues of communication throughout the school year; they will be consulted in the design, development and implementation of the Title I program. Parents will be invited to participate in workshops or training on topics pertaining to their child's education. Staff development programs will be tailored to meet the unique student and parental needs of the Gunter community.

Newsletters, website, teacher notes, the school marquees, conferences, personal contacts, phone calls and written notices will be used to establish and maintain open lines of communication with parents/guardians.

Parents/Guardians will be notified of student progress through weekly folder sheets, 3 week progress reports, and 6 week report cards.

Gunter staff members will be trained in positive communication activities as well as effective ways to work with parents, students, and members of the community.

At the beginning of each year, each teacher will discuss the learning goals and objectives with parents of each of their students. All students will be expected to work toward mastering these goals and objectives. Gunter I.S.D. recognizes the fact that some students will need modifications, accommodations, and/or extra assistance to achieve their full potential; these will be provided to students through the Title I Program and/or other educational services offered throughout the district or through district contacts.

Evaluation:

The District Improvement Committee will 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 tabulated. The DIC will make revisions to the Parent Involvement Policy based on the results of this annual review. The revised policy will then be presented to the Gunter School Board for approval.