

White Settlement ISD Parent (Family) Involvement Policy 2016-17

Statement of Purpose

White Settlement ISD believes learning is a shared responsibility that requires active involvement by students, staff, families and the community. The WSISD Board of Trustees, administration, teachers, support staff, families and community members will work collaboratively to create a positive learning environment for all students that:

- fosters a culture of excellence and empowers Brewer Bears to be innovators and leaders of tomorrow by providing premiere education (WSISD Mission).
- develops passion to learn in every student and helps each child determine his/her purpose for the future (WSISD Vision).
- supports and engages parents in learning activities with children at home and school.
- provides frequent communication with parents/families regarding school and district activities, programs and initiatives.
- provides ongoing, two-way, meaningful communication that facilitates mutual understanding and stimulates student success.
- provides a variety of activities that encourage parents/families to be actively involved in their student's learning.
- provides life-long learning opportunities for parents.
- provides training to staff that enhances the home/school partnership.

Developing the Policy with Parents

The Parent (Family) Involvement Policy will be developed and reviewed annually by the district Parent (Family) Involvement Committee (PIC), which consists of parents/family representatives, school counselors, district social workers, the Family Resource Center coordinator and central administrators. This group will meet a minimum of four times per academic school year to plan, implement, and review the policy.

The district will encourage participation in the PIC through emails to PTA/PTO board members, personal invitations, and the WSISD website.

The policy will be made available to parents/families and the community through the WSISD website.

Involve Parents in Developing the Title I Plan (District Improvement Plan)

Parent volunteers on the Parent (Family) Involvement Committee will represent the diversity of the population and one or more parents will have children participating in a Title 1 program. The committee will convene at a time and place convenient to all its members.

The committee will provide input regarding the development of the district and campus improvement plans as it pertains to parent involvement and family engagement.

Parents/family members will annually be invited to participate in the District Planning Committee, which meets at minimum four times per year. The District Planning Committee, comprised of parents, teachers, administrators, community members and business representatives, will review the District Improvement Plan annually and incorporate the Parent (Family) Involvement Policy into the Family and Community Involvement section of the District Improvement Plan.

Provide Coordination and Assistance to Schools

WSISD will provide the coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist our participating schools with planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. The coordination, assistance and support includes:

- Designation of a District Parent Involvement Coordinator
- Including Title I Parents in their school's Campus Planning Committee so that specific matters related to Title I students can be presented and acknowledged.
- Allocating district resources to parent involvement activities.
- Designation of a Title I Parent Involvement Coordinator at each Title I school.

WSISD will also provide training to enhance the skills of teachers, principals and other necessary staff in the following areas:

- The value and usefulness of parent contributions.
- How to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners.
- Implementing and coordinating parent programs
- Building ties between parents and schools.

Build Capacity of Schools and Parents

High student achievement is the result of effective home/school/community partnerships. Family involvement activities will be scheduled throughout the school year to foster this collaboration that foster this family/school/community partnership. These include the district's Mad Scientist Night and Healthy Families Rally.

The district will support activities that focus on the improvement of student achievement socially and academically. As a result, learning strategies will be shared with parents to improve student achievement and address the needs of all students.

WSISD will:

- Utilize a district-wide parent advisory council (the Parent/Family Involvement Committee) to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under this section.
- Support the schools in providing timely communication to families, ensuring that families are engaged and informed. The district will utilize a variety of communication methods including but not limited to: paper flyers and letters; social media; Blackboard Messaging System; local newspapers; district website; and mobile app. The schools will also utilize the Canvas Learning Management System; Gradebook/Skyward; and Remind to communicate the educational objectives and expectations with families.
- Provide assistance to parents in how to monitor a child's progress, and how to understand state standards and assessments. The schools will have at least one parental meeting annually that educates families regarding the assessment process.
- Provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy and technology. Avenues include the Canvas Learning Management System, Gradebook/Skyward and Remind, campus literacy and curriculum nights, etc.
- Provide training to teachers and school personnel with the assistance of parents to value the contributions of parents, to work with parents as partners, and build ties between parents and the school.

- Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parental involvement activities. Community organizations and businesses will be encouraged to participate in district-wide events. Various district and campus committees will include business and community representatives such as the Industry Advisory Committee, the School Health Advisory Council and the District Planning Committee. The district will also the Education Foundation
- Provide life-long learning opportunities for families as well as parent classes/workshops through the Family Resource Center.
- To the extent feasible, coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under other programs.
- Provide information to parents in a uniform and understandable format and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents can understand.
- May arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences.
- May adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement.

Coordination of Programs

WSISD will develop a partnership with Head Start and other pre-school programs within the district’s boundaries. Family involvement strategies will be coordinated to assist the transition from pre-school to elementary school.

WSISD will assess the needs of families and children in the community using a variety of tools including results from end-of-year campus parent surveys and an annual evaluation by the Parent (Family) Involvement Committee. The district will utilize the results to develop effective programs that address needs and revise existing programs.

Annual Evaluation of Effectiveness of Parent Involvement Policy

The parental involvement program will implement effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

The district and campus will provide assistance and resources to facilitate the parental involvement program, and the District Planning Committee (DPC) and Parent Involvement Committee will annually evaluate the content and effectiveness of the policy and its programs. Surveys, assessment data and other resources will be used to determine the needs and develop revised strategies for student success. Revisions to the District Improvement Plan and the Parent (Family) Involvement Policy will be developed with input from the DPC and Parent Involvement Committee and then communicated to parents/families.

Reservation of Funds

White Settlement ISD is required to set aside at least 1 percent of its Title I funds for the purposes of parental involvement. Those funds (95 percent) will be divided among the Title I campuses. The campus principal will consult with the Campus Planning Committee about allowable and programmatic use of the funds. The campus principal will then authorize the use of the funds designated for parental involvement.

Reservation:

District Title I Planning Amount:	\$968,262
Required 1% Reservation:	\$ 9,687
95% of the 1% Reservation:	\$ 9,203