

**Cottonwood Elementary
USD 385
School Parent Involvement Policy
Developed May 2012**

The Kansas State School Board of Education endorses the six National Standards for Family-School Partnerships (NSFSP) to promote parent involvement in all Kansas schools. We are incorporating these standards into our parent involvement policy. The standards are listed below:

WELCOMING ALL FAMILIES IN THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY:

1. Office staff will be friendly and willing to help parents and community members in a positive way.
2. Signs are posted to help parents, students and community members navigate through the school.
3. Student work is shown in halls and exhibited in a user friendly way.
4. Schools host a variety of events to involve families (Meet Your Teacher Night, Donuts with Dad, Muffins with Mom, Grade level projects, Field day, Read Night, Music programs, PTO activities, etc.)
5. An annual meeting will be available for all parents to attend to discuss parental involvement and requirements through Title I. Parents will be encouraged to attend through letters and personal invitations.

COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY

1. A monthly newsletter from the schools' office will be sent home.
2. A weekly newsletter (paper or e-mail) will be sent home for each classroom.
3. Teachers are to contact parents by phone, after school and/or at home (around town) with positive news regarding their child(ren).
4. Schools provide families with data on student progress.
5. Schools maintain websites to provide current information.
6. Assessment results are shared with parents and community.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS SUCCESS

1. Powerschool is available and encouraged for parents to use. They can look up information such as grades and attendance.
2. Parent Teacher Conferences are held twice a year. Some teachers choose to have student led conferences.
3. Parents are expected to listen to their child read nightly. Each grade level has a form for parents to sign saying they have listened to their child read.
4. Folders are sent home weekly so parents know when all office notes will come home (routine). Parents are to check the packets each week.
5. Agenda books are used in grades 2-5. Students are responsible for listing daily assignments and homework in the agenda book.

SPEAKING UP FOR EVERY CHILD

1. Parent and faculty surveys are sent out in the fall of each year to collect information on how to provide better services to our students. (Curriculum, programs, bullying, finances)

2. The district provides a system for resolving concerns and filing complaints.
3. Each year Kindergarten teachers meet with district sponsored early childhood programs to discuss curriculum and students' needs.
4. USD #385 offers 3-5 year old students services such as speech, SPED pre-school, and help with cognitive delays.

SHARING POWER

1. Schools invite parents/guardians to participate in leadership committees. (Site Council, Title I meetings, PTO, district boundary committee, etc.)
2. PTO meets 5 times per year. They encourage all parents to attend and become active in their child(ren)'s education.
3. Site Council is offered at least four times a year and all parents are encouraged to attend.

COLLABORATING WITH COMMUNITY

1. Cottonwood Student Council and different grade levels travel to a local nursing home to read to residents.
2. Cottonwood students work with Andover High School students through community service class, National Honor Society students, and Bigs in Schools program.
3. Local businesses donate rewards to our students for different recognitions.
4. The local Optimist club donates a dictionary to each third grade student.
5. The School Resource Officer visits the schools frequently to educate the student.