



Parent & Family Engagement Policy for 2019-2020

Redwater Elementary School is committed to the education of the children in our community. We feel parent involvement is an essential piece in ensuring that our students are successful in school. We believe that when parents are more involved in the academic process, school becomes more of a priority for their children. The district's motto is "Every Student, Every Day" and Redwater Elementary demonstrates this expression in all that we do to show our commitment to our students and our community. It is our mission to produce a community of life-long learners. It is our pledge to maintain a good line of communication from school to homes and our goal to provide ample opportunities for parental involvement throughout each school year. **Redwater Elementary School is committed to providing a high quality education for all students and to recognizing the essential role of parents and the value of their input.**

A. Policy Involvement

1. **Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under this part and to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved;**

Our school holds an annual meeting to inform parents of Title I School requirements and provides information regarding programs that support these requirements that focus on enhancing the educational experience for all students. In addition to this annual meeting, the principal informs parents of school testing data updates, accountability ratings, and reviews the school improvement plan.

2. **Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with funds, provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement;**

There are a variety of events throughout the school year in which parents are invited to participate. Meet the Teacher is an event held in August in which parents and students are invited to meet their child's new teacher(s) for the school year. Grade-level expectations are explained prior to or during this event. In March, parents are invited to attend Open House to see their child's academic achievements and expectations. Parents are provided information on programs offered such as Dyslexia, Gifted and Talented, and English as a Second Language.

Parents will be invited to attend a scheduled conference with their child's teacher during the first six weeks of school prior to the child receiving his or her first report card. Information is also shared at some Parent Teacher Association meetings throughout the school year. Continue efforts will be made to provide useful information via our school webpage and Facebook page to meet the needs of all.

3. **Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under this part, including planning, review, and improvement of the school parental involvement policy;**

Our school provides an opportunity for parents to give input bi-annually during review of our School Improvement Plan and School Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Our school has parent representatives on the district's PTA and this allows for parents to voice their concerns and allows for parental involvement.

4. **Provide parents of participating children timely information about programs under this part; descriptions and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet; and if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any suggestions as soon as practically possible.**

On a routine basis, our school shares information concerning the state's instructional and assessment requirements and ratings, student progress in terms of state-mandated curriculum (TEKS), as well as classroom and campus routines beneficial to the needs of our students. A variety of communication methods are used throughout the school year, including but not limited to: School handbook, weekly classroom newsletters, school newsletters, school website, Class Dojo and communication folders, BlackBoard Connect (phone call system), E-notes (electronic messaging), parent and teacher conferences, IEP meetings, PTA meetings, needs surveys, Open House, Meet the Teacher, TPRI data, benchmark scores, all in hopes of creating a partnership with parents in monitoring academic and behavioral advancements of their child. In effort to improve parental involvement, we will work to develop more opportunity for literacy and technology training.

B. Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement

As a component of the school-level parental involvement policy, each school shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under this part a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement.

In efforts to involve the student and parent as partners in a child's educational process, a Parent-Teacher-Student compact has been developed at the district level. This compact represents our philosophy in terms of creating and maintaining positive relationships that lead to student success. This document is signed at the beginning of each school year and is used to assure all parties are informed of their responsibilities as either an educator, parent, or student.

C. Building Capacity for Involvement

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, each school and local education agency assisted under this part

1. **Shall provide assistance to the parents of children served by the school or local education agency, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the state's academic content standards and state student assessments, the requirements of this part, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children;**

This provision is met as defined in the *Policy Involvement and Shared Responsibilities for High Student Achievement* sections of this document.

2. **Shall provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement;**

This provision is met as defined in the *Policy Involvement and Shared Responsibilities for High Student Achievement* sections of this document.

3. **Shall educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school;**

Involvement of parents will be requested throughout the year from teachers, administrators, and PTA. Parents will have opportunity to provide campus input in terms of communication, student expectations, as well as have opportunity to provide suggestions. Survey results will be used by the school's Site Based Decision Making Committee to make necessary adjustments to the School Improvement Plan. Throughout the course of the year parents will be invited to participate and attend school functions.

4. **Shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with community based early learning programs and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.**

Our school provides high-quality instruction to all students. Our three pre-kindergarten teacher receive specialized training and classroom materials throughout the year to help ensure a meaningful foundation for these students. Opportunities for our students with special needs to participate in functions in and out of school are provided to parents throughout the year as well. Field trips are provided to all students throughout the year, as well as engaging campus activities. Parents are encouraged to attend all events.

5. **Shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to extent practicable, in a language parents can understand.**

Our parents prefer text messaging and e-mail as a mode of communication. Therefore, a majority of our correspondence is sent electronically. Weekly newsletters are sent on a paper copy for all students to keep parents informed. Our information sent home can be translated when necessary.

In carrying out the parental involvement requirements of this part, districts and schools, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents with children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents can understand.

All parents are considered an important part of the educational process and are encouraged to be a part of our learning environment. Administrators and teachers are readily available to meet with parents via phone or face-to-face. If necessary, a translator will be available in order for meetings to be successful and worthwhile. Staff are provided training to better understand the needs of children with special needs. It is our practice to make all parents feel welcome and heard.