

**Kountze Elementary School**  
**Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy**  
**2020-2021**

## **Our Mission**

As per Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Kountze Elementary has adopted the following policy to ensure that the staff coordinates all possible programs to provide quality services to our children and families and to afford parents substantial and meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children. Our goal is to maximize opportunities for all parents to participate in ways that will help all children to be successful, not only in the State's academic content and academic achievement standards, but also provide opportunities for parents to assist us in maximizing our students' potential in order to become successful citizens upon completion of their public-school careers. To reach our goal, Kountze Elementary SBDM has drafted the following policy outlining the ways in which parents are encouraged to participate in the life of the school. Specifically, we strive to include opportunities in the following areas:

- Development, evaluation, and revision of the parental policy
- Purpose, evaluation and revision of the School-Parent Compact
- Opportunities for all parents to be involved in decision-making for designing, implementing and evaluating our school-wide program (our educational program)
- Informational meetings, regarding our Title I, Part A participation, school-wide objectives and program plan/CIP, state assessments and proficiency expectations and accountability measures for the school.
- Training opportunities to build parents' abilities to assist their children.
- Opportunities to be advised of students' academic achievement progress in a timely manner and opportunities for discussing measures to assist students not meeting expectations
- Opportunities to be involved in instructional activities
- Opportunities to be involved in designing and/or offering suggestions for staff development that focuses on ways to value parents, while continuing to reach out to more parents, ensuring greater potential for staff to work with parents as equal partners
- Descriptions and explanations of the curriculum in use, local assessments to measure student progress, and the proficiency level students are expected to meet throughout the school year
- Evaluation of the Parent Involvement Policy and the effectiveness of involvement activities
- Provide increased and timely communications regarding the qualifications of the specific instructional staff who works with your child

The staff at Kountze Elementary School invites parents to offer suggestions for improving our efforts to involve the community in meaningful ways. Please call Thomas Cooley at (409) 246 3551 or by email [TCooley@kountzeisd.org](mailto:TCooley@kountzeisd.org) in order to give us your suggestions or to discuss opportunities for you to work directly with us.

## **Meeting and Community Gathering Opportunities**

Kountze Elementary conducts site-based decision-making meetings throughout the entire school year. We encourage parents to join the SBDM team and ask for input on topics we discuss. Parents may also offer topics for discussion. In addition to encouraging potential ideas and topics at these meetings, we want to make every effort possible for all parents to learn about the actions/decisions of the committee. The SBDM will disseminate this information through the district website as represented in the online posting of the KES Improvement Plan.

We at Kountze Elementary also encourage parents to attend the campus programs throughout the school year. Previous activities have included:

- Title Meeting and Administrator Greetings
- Open House
- Meet and Greet the Teacher
- Lunch with Grandparents
- Book Fair and Book Parade
- Community Honor Program
- Give Thanks Program
- Winter Celebrations and classroom visitation program
- Kindergarten Tea Party
- Pancakes with Parents
- Campus Book Fair
- Campus Arts Open House
- End of year awards and parent meeting
- Kindergarten graduation

As we better understand our capabilities during the pandemic, we will modify our activities and programs, while keeping the safety of our students, parents and staff in mind. We will make every effort to continue to promote parent and family engagement.

## How We Communicate

- Communication with parents is of the utmost importance. Kountze Elementary may utilize the following strategies:
- Online newsletters
- Paper newsletters in English and Spanish
- Weekly printed notifications
- Automated phone calls
- Emails
- Remind
- Campus social media posts
- Campus website

Communication must be in the language a parent understands. District may provide training for school personnel on beneficial communication skills with parents. We also encourage parents to meet with staff in person or via phone sessions during teachers' conference periods.

## Parent Training

Kountze Elementary will provide assistance to parents of children served by the school. Parents are always welcome to join in activities on campus before, during and after school once they have checked in through the front office. We also encourage parents to become active volunteers at school and to participate in activities that support student academic growth and development. In an effort to foster parental involvement, Kountze Elementary will, with the assistance of district personnel, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. This will focus on opportunities such as literacy training, available technology and their use of support materials at home. Kountze Elementary also provides student resources that are available to student and their families at home, such as, flashcards and high frequency word lists, reading programs and beneficial learning routines. Parents will also have the opportunity to attend STAAR Parent Night activities to learn more about state assessments.

## How We Are Doing

In addition to the STAAR state assessments, our school uses other local assessment measurements to determine the progress of our students in mastering the state's content standards and to guide instruction and professional development.

**Informal Assessments:** These include Performance Assessments, teacher observation, checklists and unit tests. These assessments are closest to the day-to-day routine of teaching and learning and the results assist the staff in making changes to instruction for both content and the way instruction is delivered.

**Formal Assessments:** These tell teachers and parents how children are doing in comparison with other students and/or how well students are doing to master standards. (The results of the assessments can be expressed in percentiles or numerical values.) Example of assessments administered at KES can include:

Istation, Renaissance, Education Galaxy, Waterford Learning, STAAR, TELPAS for bilingual students, Classroom Checklists, Classroom Tests, Classroom Projects and several versions of Testing Software on Chromebooks.

## Our Evaluation of Parental Involvement

Kountze Elementary will evaluate and review the effectiveness of our program and policy. Evaluations will include the following goals:

- To improve the education program at Kountze Elementary School
- To evaluate the effectiveness of the policy and activities to increase parental involvement and participate as our partners.
- To identify potential barriers to parent participation, especially for the parents of special populations students
- To improve our on-campus efforts to work with all parents through continuous revision and improvement of the parental engagement policy

The Site Based Decision Making Committee, including parent representatives, will help us determine procedures for evaluating activities and for collecting data, which will be reviewed at the end of each school year. This review will provide direction for continued improvement efforts at Kountze Elementary. Additionally, with the input from parents serving on SBDM, Kountze Elementary will disseminate an annual survey to all parents regarding the overall effectiveness of our efforts to work with the parents. Examples of surveys may include: Food Services survey, Technology Use survey and campus accomplishment input survey.