

KOUNTZE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

2018-2019

SCHOOL PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY

KOUNTZE ELEMENTARY CAMPUS

The Kountze Elementary Campus is fully committed to the success of our students and we will make every effort to include parents in the development, evaluation, and revision of the Title I program and Parental Involvement Policy in order to provide excellence in education.

Our Mission

As per the 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 to 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's 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 included opportunities in the following areas:

1. Development, evaluation, and revision of the parental policy.
2. Purpose, evaluation and revision of the School-Parent Compact.
3. Opportunities for all parents to be involved in decision-making for designing, implementing, and evaluating our school-wide program (our educational program).
4. 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.
5. Training opportunities to build parents' abilities to assist their children.
6. Opportunities to be advised of students' academic achievement progress in a timely manner and opportunities for discussing measures to assist students not meeting expectations.
7. Opportunities to be involved in instructional activities.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Evaluation of the Parent Involvement Policy and the effectiveness of involvement activities.
11. 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 TCoolley@kountzeisd.org in order to give us your suggestions or to discuss opportunities for you to work directly with us.

Meetings 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 so they can attend these sessions, and, at the close of each session, we will ask for input from the community representatives on topics we have discussed. If parents would like to offer topics for discussion at these meetings, please contact Thomas Cooley so that these items may be placed on meeting agendas for future meetings. In addition to encouraging potential ideas and agendas 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 Kountze Elementary Campus Improvement Plan.

We at Kountze Elementary also encourage parents to attend the campus Open House / Meet and Greet sessions as follows: Title Meeting and Administrator Greetings August 24th 8:00 am, Meet the Teacher August 24th 9:00 am – 10:30 am, Pre-K & Kindergarten Family Orientation August 27th 9:00 am – 10:30 am, Open House / Campus Informational September 10th 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm, and additional community programs throughout the school year. We hold several community meetings and campus presentation programs that include:

Title Meeting and Administrator Greetings.

The First of the Year campus Open House.

Meet and Greet with our campus parents.

The Fall session of the Community Book Fair and Parade.

The Community Honor Program.

Our Give Thanks Program.

Our campus Winter Celebration and classroom visitation program.

The Kountze Elementary Tea Party presentation.

The Spring session of the Campus Book Fair.

The Kountze Elementary Arts Open House.

The end of year Kountze Elementary parental meeting.

The Kountze Elementary Kindergarten graduation and awards program.

Pancakes with Parents programs.

Pancakes with Grandparents programs.

How We Communicate

For Title I, Part A campuses, communication with parents is of the utmost importance. In order to facilitate quality communication between our community, parents and the school personnel, Kountze elementary may utilize the following strategies: Our online newsletters, the paper newsletters in both English and Spanish, weekly printed notifications, automated phone calls, emails, classroom Remind software, KES campus social media posts and the campus website. Communication between parents and school personnel must be in the language parents understand. To better assist campus-parent communications, the district may provide training for school personnel on beneficial communication skills with parents. We also have encouraged parents to meet with staff in person or via phone sessions during our teachers' designated conference periods.

Parent Training

Kountze Elementary will provide assistance to parents of children served by the school. At Kountze Elementary, 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 our parents to become active volunteers in the 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 students 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, Kountze Elementary 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 assessments 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 of these assessments assist the staff in making changes to instruction for both content and the way instruction is delivered.

Formal Assessments: These assessments 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 these assessments can be expressed in percentiles or numerical values.) Examples of assessments administered at Kountze Elementary can include:

iStation, Education Galaxy, Waterford Learning, STAAR, and TELPAS for bilingual students.

Classroom Checklists, Classroom Tests, Classroom Projects and several versions of Testing Software on classroom Chromebooks.

Our Evaluation of Parental Involvement

The purpose of evaluating and reviewing the parent involvement policy and activities for involvement is multi-fold and includes the following goals:

1. To improve the educational program at Kountze Elementary School – Kountze ISD.
2. To evaluate the effectiveness of the policy and activities to increase parent involvement in meaningful opportunities to participate as our partners.
3. To identify potential barriers to parent participation, especially for the parents of special populations students.
4. To improve our on-campus efforts to work with all parents through continuous revision and improvement to the parental involvement policy.

To assist us in this evaluation process, the SBDM, including parent representatives, will help us determine procedures for evaluating activities and for collecting this data, which will be reviewed at the end of each school year. This review will provide direction for our continued improvement efforts at Kountze Elementary. Additionally, with the input from parents serving on the SBDM, Kountze Elementary will disseminate an annual survey to all parents regarding the overall effectiveness of our efforts to work equitably with parents. Examples of such evaluations may include the food services survey, technology use survey and campus accomplishment input survey.