

Newton Middle School Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2018-2019



In support of strengthening student academic achievement, each school that receives Title 1, Part A funds must develop jointly with, agree upon with, and distribute to parents of participating children a School Parental Involvement Policy that contains information requirement by section 1118(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the school's expectations for parental involvement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parental involvement activities.

Newton Middle School is committed to the education of the children in our community. We believe parent involvement is an essential part in ensuring that our students are successful in school. We feel that the more involved parents are in the academic process, the more school becomes a priority for their children. The Mission of Newton Middle School is that faculty, staff, and administration, in partnership with parents, students, and community will provide a safe and disciplined learning environment that promotes the academic, intellectual, personal, and social development of our students. Our goals are to maintain a good line of communication from school to homes and provide ample opportunities for parental involvement throughout the school year.

Part 1. General Expectations

The school agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school will jointly develop with parents, distribute to parents of participating children, a School Parental Involvement Policy that the school and parents of participating children agree on.
- The school will notify parents about the School Parental Involvement Policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, distribute this policy to parents in a language the parents can understand.
- The school will periodically update the School Parental Involvement Policy to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.
- The school will adopt the school's School-Parent Compact as a component of the School Parental Involvement Policy.
- The school agrees to be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring

- A. Parents play an integral role in their child's learning;
- B. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- C. Parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;
- D. Carry out other activities, such as those described in section 118 of the ESEA.

Part 2. Policy Involvement

- 1. Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of 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 a One Stop Registration prior to the start of school each year to review with parents Title I requirements and the school's Parent Involvement Policy. In addition, parents are given updates on school test data, progress status, and the school's Campus Improvement Plan.

- 2. Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings during the day or evening.**

Parents are invited to participate in a variety of meetings and activities over the course of the school year. An Open House is held in August and again in the spring to provide parents the opportunity to meet their child's teacher, to visit the classroom, and to become better informed about grade level expectations and their student's academic progress. The school's Parent Resource Center has available various resources for use at home or on campus. Effort will be made to offer training opportunities and information on the school website in order to make information accessible at all times.

- 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.**

An organized PTC has been established to create a forum for parental input and involvement, as well as a School Drop Box to ask questions, provide feedback, and receive input.

- 4. Provide parents of participating children timely information about programs under this part; descriptions and explanations of the curriculum in use, 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.

Our school communicates with parents about the state's curricular and assessment expectations, school wide requirements in relation to the delivery of instruction, techniques used to evaluate student work, and individual classroom rituals and routines pertinent to academic student success. We use a variety of forms of communication such as school handbooks, newsletters, school website, district website, classroom websites, communication folders School Messenger (call out phone system), parent/teacher conferences, PTC meetings, ARD meetings, individual calls/notes home, Family STAAR Nights, Parent Resource Center, Open House, One Stop Registration, progress reports, report cards, Remind, and the district social media page to encourage parent participation and deliver important information in hopes of creating productive dialogue between home and school regarding improving student achievement.

Part 3. Shared Responsibility for High Student Academic Achievement

- 1. 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 shall share responsibility for improved student academic achievement.**

A Parent-Teacher Compact has been developed and is utilized in our school. This document serves as an agreement between all parties, parent, teacher, and student that they will adhere to certain duties and responsibilities to ensure success of the student. It is reviewed at the beginning of the school year. The compacts are retained by the teacher and used in student and parent conferences to remind each participant of their responsibilities, to

motivate students and parents to become more involved in the educational process, and to communicate with parents that they are equal partners in their child's education.

Part 4. 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 LEA assisted under this part -

- 1. Shall provide assistance to parents of children served by the school or LEA, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the state's academic standards and state student academic achievement standards, state and local academic 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.**

Our school will provide for this provision as stated 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 child's academic achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.**

Our school will provide for this provision as stated in the Policy Involvement and Shared Responsibilities for High Student Achievement sections of this document.

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

Faculty and staff will be made aware of educational research on parent involvement. Parental input will be solicited throughout the year in meetings, activities, and one on one conferences. Information will be utilized to strengthen ties between school and home for the purposes of increasing student achievement.

A multitude of opportunities for parents to become involved with our school will be provided throughout the year in order to take advantage of the benefits that come with active parent involvement.

- 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 fully participating in their child’s education.**

The school’s Parent Resource Center has available various resources for use at home or school. Parent and Family Newsletters are posted quarterly on the school website and the district website with various information and activities for parents.

The School Parental Involvement Policy may include additional discretionary activities that the school, in correspondence with parents, chooses to undertake in order to build parent’s capacity for involvement in the school to support their children’s academic achievement.

Activities/Strategies:

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|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| One-Stop Registration/Open House | Award Ceremonies |
| Muffins with Mom | 8 th Grade Graduation |
| Donuts with Dad | Pep Rallies |
| Fall Festival | CIP Meetings |
| Christmas Extravaganza | Band Concerts |
| STAAR Parent Night | |
| Grandparent’s Luncheon | |
| PTC Meetings | |
| School Safety Parent Night | |

5. Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement under this section as parents may request.

The school has a visible Drop Box for parent input and feedback. The school's Campus Site Base Team which includes parents, develops the Campus Improvement Plan that includes development of various Parental Involvement activities. The Campus Site Base team will annually review these activities to determine which activities will be continued, which will be revised, and any that need to be added.

6. 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.

Written information sent home is as concise and compact as possible. Newton Middle School sends home school correspondences in English, and in Spanish or other languages as needed or requested. A translator is available to assist with oral communication when necessary.

7. 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 as parents can understand.

Parents of all students, regardless of English proficiency, mobility, or disability, are considered to be an integral part of the learning community. All parents are afforded the opportunity to be involved in their child's school environment. If a special need is identified that would help a parent to more fully understand the educational process and the academic progress of his/her child, assistance will be provided to that parent. This type of support may come in the form of interpreting school documents, having a translator available at school wide meetings and events, at parent teacher conferences, making resources available in English and Spanish, and providing easier accessibility to parents and or students with disabilities.

SIGNATURE PAGE

Members of the Campus Site Base Team hereby acknowledge their participation in the process of writing, revising, and adopting the policy.

Date: _____

Name	Signature	Role
		Principal
		Assistant Principal
		Staff Member
		Parent
		Parent