



Tarkington Independent School District
Parent and Family Engagement Policy (ESSA Section 1116)
2020 – 2021

PURPOSE

Tarkington ISD is committed to the belief that all students should be educated to the fullest extent of their abilities. The District’s mission is to provide the essential academic skills and the necessary knowledge to foster lifelong learning. Students are taught a core curriculum of English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, fine arts, health, physical education, and technology literacy. Our commitment is to ensure that students acquire a knowledge of citizenship and economic responsibility, based on our American heritage and an understanding of the importance of its multicultural richness. Therefore, Tarkington ISD commits to utilize and maximize our resources to empower and inspire every student to meet the challenges of our rapidly changing world with academic preparedness, a passion for life-long learning, and a sense of social responsibility. In doing so, TISD will make every effort to include and partner with parents and families in developing, reviewing, revising, and agreeing upon the parent and family engagement policy.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

TARKINGTON ISD (TISD) agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- TISD will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1118, TISD will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of Section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- TISD will incorporate this district-wide parent and family engagement policy into its LEA plan developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, TISD and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and,

including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language understandable.

- If the TISD plan for the Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, TISD will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- TISD will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- TISD will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

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

- (A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;
- (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;
- (C) that 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) that other activities, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA, are carried out.

DISTRICT-WIDE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. TISD will take the following steps necessary to involve parents in the joint development of the parent involvement plan under Section 1112 of the ESEA by recruiting parents for the District improvement Team which will conduct a needs assessment and review district programs,
 - Parents on the District Improvement Team will meet at least two (2) times a year. Meeting dates and time will be set to accommodate parent committee members.
 - The Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be reviewed and revised yearly
2. TISD will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under Section 1116 of ESEA:
 - Parents will receive formal training on how Title I, Part A, relates to TISD and our Title campuses.
 - TISD will reach out and recruit parents and family members to participate on Campus Improvement Committees and the District Improvement Committee.
 - Campuses receiving Title funds will involve parents, through Campus Improvement Committees, in appropriate decision-making.
 - Campuses will promote active PTO and other parent organizations.

3. TISD will involve parents and family members in jointly developing the District Improvement Plan under Section 1112. Parent and Family Engagement planning is a part of the District Improvement Plan process.
 - TISD will reach out to parents through various means to recruit participation on the District Improvement Team responsible for plan development. Volunteers are encouraged.
 - A comprehensive needs assessment is conducted.
 - Parent and Family Engagement goals and strategies are targeted in the plan and the plan is posted on the District website as well as systematically reviewed and evaluated.
 - The plan is intended to be a dynamic working document allowing for routine input and revision to achieve targeted outcomes.
4. TISD will provide the necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in building capacity, and in planning effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. Therefore, TISD will develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy.
 - The policy shall be incorporated into TISD's plan developed under section 1112 (District Improvement Plan),
 - The policy will establish the TISD's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement.
 - The plan is developed with business and community coordination and input.
 - Coordination, technical assistance, and other support will be provided by the office of the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and the Director of Curriculum and Assessment.
 - TISD will provide a Parent and Family Engagement district webpage that provides relevant Parent and Family Engagement information and email/contact information to encourage meaningful parent and family input and dialogue.
 - Title I campuses will maintain campus Parent and Family Engagement webpages as well.
 - TISD Pre-K and Kindergarten Roundup is coordinated with area day cares and preschool programs.
5. Tarkington ISD will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under Title I, Part A, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other programs.
 - The Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and the Director of Curriculum and Assessment will coordinate and support district and campus parent and family engagement activities.
 - Activities and programs are encouraged to be listed as appropriate on both district and campus websites accessible to parents.

- District Kindergarten Roundup activities will be coordinated with PreK and PPCD programs as well as area day cares and preschool programs.
 - TISD works closely with the community library to promote summer reading and other activities that support parent and family participation in the child's education.
 - The TISD summer feeding program is integral in supporting students in their academic preparedness for learning and achievement, and is coordinated with Cleveland ISD and the Community Library summer reading program.
6. Tarkington ISD will conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include barriers to greater participation by parents in activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The evaluation will also assess the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers, and strategies to support successful school and family interactions.
- TISD administration (Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Student Services and campus principals) will provide an annual Parent and Family Engagement survey in English and Spanish.
 - Survey results will be aggregated and shared with the District Improvement Team and campuses for the purposes of program evaluation.
 - Survey results will also be used in coordination with demographic and needs assessment data to inform strategies to support more successful school and family interactions and to identify and address barriers to greater participation.
7. TISD will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and families and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:
- TISD will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to its parents of children served, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph –
 - Texas's academic content standards
 - Texas's student academic achievement standards
 - Texas's and local academic assessments, including alternate assessments
 - The requirements of Title I, Part A
 - How to monitor their children's progress
 - How to work with educators
 1. Resources and activities include:
 - a. PTO Assemblies Open Houses

- b. Informational Meetings
 - c. State Assessment Information/Explanations on district and campus websites
 - d. Parent/teacher conferences
 - e. Newsletters
 - f. School messenger app
- TISD will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement and to foster parent and family engagement by
 - Providing home access for curriculum resources as available
 - Providing teacher email for parent communication
 - Gradebook parent portal
 - Parent newsletters
 - Remind app
 - School messenger app
- TISD will educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, 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. Activities and programs include, but are not limited to:
 - Providing leadership training for principals and administrators in building capacity
 - Providing training, resources, and guidance on the annual campus training requirements
 - Providing *Capturing Kids' Hearts* relationship training for all TISD personnel to enhance and provide focus on building positive relationships among all stakeholders
 - Providing resources and support for informational meetings with parents and community stakeholders
 - Providing accessible parent and family engagement resources on the District website
- TISD will ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.
 - Required ESSA communications provided in English and Spanish
 - Parent and family engagement surveys provided in English and Spanish
 - TEA parent documents for understanding test results will be provided in Spanish, as provided by TEA

DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT-WIDE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

The TISD Parent and Family Engagement Policy includes discretionary activities that the school district, in consultations with our parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' and families' capacity for involvement in TISD. The following discretionary components in TISD support children's academic achievement:

- Meet the Teacher Night, Family Fun Nights, PTO meetings, Middle School assemblies, elementary awards programs, Open House, and other informational meetings
- Meetings offered at a variety of times to encourage access and attendance
- Foster Care Liaison
 - Assists with facilitating the enrollment/transfer of a child who is in the conservatorship of the state
 - Coordinates with local child welfare partners
 - Encourages successful transition into adulthood and post-secondary opportunities
 - Face-to-face conferences