

## Waxahachie Independent School District

### Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Waxahachie Independent School District will implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation meaningful programs, activities, and procedures for parent and family engagement in all of its schools with Title 1 programs. Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- The school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the Title 1 requirements, and include, as a component, Parent-School Compact.
- The school district will incorporate this district-wide parent and family engagement policy into its district improvement plan.
- In carrying out the Title 1 parent and family engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will 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 an understandable and uniform format and including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title 1 schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title 1 funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent, and will ensure that not less than ninety percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title 1 schools will carry out meaningful programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

*Parent and family engagement means the participation of parents and family members 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 in 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 on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;*

#### **Statement of Purpose**

Waxahachie Independent School District believes every child should have the opportunity to attain his/her full potential. Therefore, Waxahachie Independent School District will maximize its resources that will enable each child to become a successful learner. A key resource is its people: administrators, teachers, school staff, parents, and community members. We will work together to establish effective partnerships in order to realize higher student achievement. Ongoing, two-way, meaningful communication will occur to facilitate mutual understanding and stimulate student success.

#### **Development of Policy**

The Waxahachie Independent School District Education Improvement Committee consisting of parents, community members, teachers, school staff and administrators will develop and revise the Waxahachie Independent School District's Parent and Family Engagement Policy in conjunction with the district improvement plan. The parent volunteers will represent the diversity of the student population, and one or more parents on the advisory committee will have children participating in a Title 1 program.

### **Annual Meeting**

Waxahachie Independent School District Title 1 campuses will hold an annual Title 1 meeting, at two different times, during the fall of the new school year for all parents. During this meeting, the Title 1 program will be described, the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the Parent-School Compact will be adopted, and opportunities for parental participation will be explained. The annual meeting will be held for the convenience of parents and parents will be informed about the meeting through notices such as, notes sent home with students, School Messenger, social media, and/or postings on the campus and district website.

In addition, Title 1 information, including the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy, is covered at the district level through the District Education Improvement Committee(DEIC)meetings. Parents are encouraged to attend and invited through the DEIC notification process.

Since the goal of Waxahachie Independent School District is student success. The expectations for school performance, individual student assessments, and grade level curriculum will be provided in a format parents can understand. Information provided to parents may be done by means of: Student Performance Report, Campus Report Card and parent conferences.

Parents will be advised that the effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement program will be evaluated annually and the policy will be revised to meet the needs of the students, school, parents, family members and the community.

### **Building Capacity**

Waxahachie Independent School District will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement to ensure effective involvement of parents and families and to support a partnership among the schools involved, parents and the community to improve student's academic achievement. The school/district will, with the assistance of its Title 1 schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, and understand topics such as the following:

- the state's academic content standards
- the state's student academic achievement standards
- the state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
- the requirements of Title 1
- how to monitor their child's progress
- how to work with educators

The Waxahachie Independent School District will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under Title 1 with Family Literacy programs, Parent Education classes, etc. In addition, Title 1 campuses coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies that include, but are not limited to Parent Orientation meetings, Gifted and Talented meetings, FAFSA Night, SAT/ACT meetings, Dual Credit/Advanced Placement meetings, Math Nights and Literacy Nights.

### **Programs and the Community**

Waxahachie Independent School District will assess the needs of parents and children in the district using a variety of tools including a paper survey and/or electronic questionnaire. The findings will be used to revise the Title 1 program to meet the needs of stakeholders. Workshops or other trainings will be made available to educators and parents to address such needs.

In addition, parents, family members and the community are encouraged to participate and volunteer of their time by completing a PIE(Partners in Education) application.

### **Staff-Parent Communication**

Waxahachie Independent School District will communicate with parents on a regular basis. Important information will be provided in the student handbook, the Parent-School Compacts, and on the district/campus website. Frequent notices about student performance will be sent home by the campuses or provided by phone calls, emails, and/or parent conferences. Insofar as possible, all communication will be provided in a language and format parents can understand. Parents are encouraged to contact the school or the child's teacher when questions or problems arise.

Parents will be notified about the training opportunities through various methods, including, but not limited to: social media, district/campus/teacher websites, Drumbeat(district newsletter), Lighthouse for Learning, Skyward Family Access and School Messenger.

In addition, student should pay an active role in communication with their parents. They, too, are responsible for making sure notices and information given to them is passed on to parents.

### **School-Parent Compact**

As a component of the school-level parent and family engagement policy, each school, receiving Title 1 funds, shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under such a school, a Parent-School Compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. For elementary Title 1 campuses, the compact will be provided to parents at the required annual parent conference in the fall. It will also be posted on the school's website. For secondary Title 1 campuses, the compact will be posted on the campus website. The Parent-School Compact will be reviewed yearly for updates and revisions.

### **Evaluation**

Waxahachie Independent School District will work with its District Education Improvement Committee to evaluate the effectiveness of the parent and family engagement program. Surveys, classroom observations, assessment data, and other resources will be used to determine barriers and/or needs and subsequently develop strategies for student success. Particular attention will be paid to economically disadvantaged, disabled, limited English proficient, limited literacy, and racial/ethnic minority groups. Parental input will be sought. The district's Parent and Family Engagement policy will be posted on the district's website for parent access.

### **Funding**

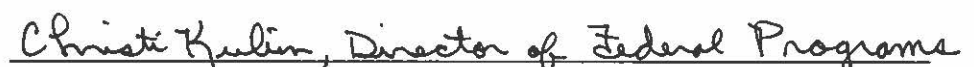
Waxahachie Independent School District is required to set aside at least 1% of its Title 1 allotment for the purposes of parental involvement. Those funds will be divided among the Title 1 campuses. The campus principal will consult with the Campus Education Improve Committee about allowable uses of funds. The campus principal will then authorize the use of funds designated for parent and family engagement.

### **Conclusion**

Waxahachie Independent School District is committed to the success of all students. We will work together with together with parents to monitor the effectiveness of our parent and family engagement and Title 1 programs and to support excellence in education. The policy will be promoted by the administrators, principals, and other district and school staff as we seek active participation by our parents.

### **Adoption**

This Waxahachie Independent School District Parent and Family Engagement Policy was reviewed, revised and adopted by the WISD District Education Improvement Committee on November 11, 2021 and will be in effect for a period of one year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title 1, Part A children by way of the district website.

  
Signature of Authorized Official/Title

