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**Nederland ISD Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

**2023-2024**

**Statement of Purpose**

Nederland ISD is dedicated to providing a highly effective teaching and learning experience designed to meet the individual needs, interests, and abilities of each student. To accomplish this objective, the district develops and maintains partnerships with parents and families in all aspects of the various local, state, and federal programs offered in Nederland schools. Nederland ISD is committed to excellence at all levels in order to provide a quality education for each child. All students will receive the respect, encouragement, and educational opportunities needed to enable them to be successful, contributing members of a changing global society.

**Parent and Family Engagement Policies**

Nederland ISD is committed to providing every child an excellent education in partnership with staff, parents, and community. It is important to develop a positive working relationship with parents. Parent and Family Engagement is the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring

* + that parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;
	+ that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school; and
	+ 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.

The district and each designated Title I campus must have a Parent and Family Engagement Policy. This policy details how the district or campus will effectively engage parents in their students’ learning. The policy must be jointly developed with parents. The policy should be updated annually based on meaningful feedback provided by parents of participating students. The policy should be distributed to all families annually.

In accordance with Board Policy EHBD (LEGAL), Nederland ISD shall:

1. Involve parents in the joint development of the District Improvement Plan and the process of school review and improvement through membership of the Site-Based Decision-Making Committee (SBDMC). The SBDMC shall be composed of parents, educators, business, and community members who work together in a shared decision- making process. The SBDMC meets a minimum of two times a year.
2. Include parents in the joint development of a written parent involvement policy, to be included in the District Improvement Plan. This policy shall be reviewed and revised as necessary on an annual basis in a SBDMC meeting.
3. Conduct outreach to all parents and family members.
4. Include parents in the annual evaluation of the parental involvement policy. The evaluation shall identify barriers to greater participation by parents, and use the results to design more effective strategies for parental involvement.
5. Coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under Title I with parent involvement strategies under other programs, including Title III, Head Start and preschool programs through joint meetings.
6. Provide information to parents with limited English proficiency, to the extent practicable, in a language parents can understand.
7. Provide parent liaisons who will build the schools’ and parents’ capacity for strong parental involvement, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education.
8. Provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

**School-Parent Compacts**

In accordance with Title I regulations, each Nederland ISD Title I campus has developed and will update a School-Parent Compact annually. This compact provides information regarding how students, parents/families, and staff share responsibility for promoting student achievement. School-Parent Compacts will be distributed at parent conferences at the elementary level. At the secondary level, the School-Parent Compacts are distributed to the students. The compacts are designed so the student and their parents can sign to acknowledge that they understand their roles.

**Title I Parent Advisory Council**

The Nederland ISD Title I Parent Advisory Council comprises parents, district leaders, and school principals. The team discusses the design and implementation of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. In addition, the team involves parents in developing and improving various aspects of the District Title I program.

**Annual Meeting for the Title I Parents and Families**

Nederland ISD uses Title I funds to provide services for all students at our designated Title I campuses. Title I campuses hold at least two meetings annually to review Title I guidelines and services offered through this programming. The annual meetings are held at different times and on different days to accommodate parent and family schedules. Notifications of the meetings are provided to parents and families through flyers, emails, social media, and other public announcements and notices. Translators are available to help with Non-English speaking parents and families upon request.

The Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the Parent-Student Compact for each campus are reviewed at those meetings. Parents and families are encouraged to become involved in revising and updating the policy as necessary by participating in Campus Improvement Teams (CIT).

**Parent and Family Engagement Opportunities**

Nederland ISD encourages parent and family engagement in a variety of ways as it strives to develop and maintain an optimum learning environment for all students:

* Parents and families may contribute through volunteer programs.
* Parents and families may contribute by creating a supportive home environment.
* Parents and families may participate by attending school meetings. (Ex: Title I, planning sessions, and student programs)
* Parents and families may serve on campus and/or district committees. (Ex: Campus Improvement Teams, District Advisory Council, District Committees, etc.)
* Parents and families are surveyed to get their input about school.
* Parents and families are invited to eat meals with their children. (Ex: grandparents’ luncheon)
* Parents and families can attend various evening activities at campuses. (Ex: Meet the Teacher night, STEM night, and etc.)
* Parents and families can participate in parent workshops and training to support student achievement in key areas. (Ex: literacy, technology)

**Building Capacity**

Nederland ISD values the partnership of parents in their children’s education. Student achievement is the result of effective home-school-community partnerships. Parents and families can contribute to their student’s success in many ways, both at home and through volunteering at the school. The district provides multiple methods for building the capacity of parents and families to support their children’s education:

* Assist parents and families in understanding state academic content standards and academic achievement standards, local academic assessments, how to monitor a child’s progress, and how to work with educators to improve student achievement.
* Provide materials and training as necessary to help parents and families work with their children to improve achievement.
* Provide education to teachers, principals, and other staff on ways to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents and families as equal partners.
* Provide parent and family engagement programs with preschool programs.
* Provide information to parents and families in an understandable language as needed.

**Staff and Parent and Family Communication**

Parents and families are informed of school activities throughout the school year through various forms of communication. Newsletters, teacher notes, the school marquee, conferences, personal contacts, phone calls, websites, emails, written notices, and social media are used to establish and maintain open lines of communication with parents and families.

**Interpretation and Translation Guidelines**

Nederland ISD has a diverse multicultural population speaking a variety of languages. Nederland ISD currently has 29 different languages spoken. The languages included are Arabic, Bengali, Burmese, Cambodian (Khmer), Cantonese (Chinese), Danish, German, Gheg (Albanian), Gujarati, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Malayalam, Mandarin (Chinese), Other Languages, Panjabi, Pilipino (Tagalog), Portuguese, Taal, Tosk (Albanian), Sindhi, Sinhalese (Sri Lanka), Spanish, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Vietnamese and Yoruba. Translators are provided for parents, and information is provided in an understandable language as needed.

Nederland ISD has partnered with RTT Mobile Interpretation to assist staff at school and district facilities. Secretaries and administrators at campuses and front desk staff at the administration building have access to interpreters in more than 180 languages. The services with RTT Mobile Interpretation can be utilized for scheduled meetings, unscheduled visitor assistance, and during phone calls with families.

At all Title I campuses, the Parent and Family Engagement (PFE) Policy and the School-Parent Compact are translated into Spanish. Additionally, at any Title I campus, if the home language among the entire student population is greater than 25% for any one language, the campus must translate the Parent and Family Engagement (PFE) Policy and School-Parent Compact into that language. Please contact the Federal Programs Department for assistance with translation if needed.

**Coordination of Programs**

Parents and families will be consulted in designing, developing, and implementing the Title I Program at designated Title I campuses. Parents and families will also be invited to participate in workshops addressing areas of growth as identified in the campus improvement plan.

At the beginning of each year, teachers provide parents and families access to the learning goals and objectives that students will be expected to work toward and master. Nederland ISD recognizes that some students will need modifications, accommodations, or extra assistance to maximize student achievement. There will be provided to students through the Title I Program and educational services offered through the district.

**Evaluation**

The Nederland ISD Title I Parent Advisory Council will review and evaluate all aspects of the parent engagement annually. Parent surveys with questions about the program's effectiveness will be distributed, and the results will be tabulated. Teacher surveys will be used to determine the number and kind of interactions between the school and parents. The annual evaluation will also identify barriers to greater participation by parents/families. The Nederland ISD Title I Parent Advisory Council will revise the district Parent and Family Engagement Policy based on the results of this evaluation. If necessary, the council will also redesign strategies for more effective parent and family engagement. Similarly, the Campus Improvement Team (CIT) at each designated Title I campus will review staff and parent surveys, identify barriers to engagement, and, if needed, revise the campus Parent and Family Engagement Policy and redesign strategies for more effective parent and family engagement.