

Revised June 10, 2020

Parent and Family Engagement Policy
Windthorst Elementary
2020-2021

Statement of Purpose

A strong partnership between the school and home is essential if a quality educational program is to be provided to all students. Windthorst Elementary School is dedicated to the philosophy that parent involvement is integral to the success of each student. For this reason, parents are actively recruited as our partners for success. The parent and family engagement policy is reviewed and amended during the annual SBDM Title I evaluation and planning meeting. The policy will be posted on the website in English and Spanish each year.

Windthorst Elementary will follow the TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) listed on the Texas Education Website. *All* students will be expected to work toward mastering these objectives. Our campus recognizes the fact that some students will need extra assistance to achieve their full potential. The extra assistance is available to all students through the Title I program and various other educational services offered through the district.

Windthorst Elementary intends to include parents in all aspects of the Title I program. Students will be given every opportunity for success through the development and enhancement of the home-school partnership.

Parent Involvement in Developing Policy

Windthorst's Site-Based Decision Making (SBDM) Committee is comprised of parents, community members, administrators, teachers, and other staff members. This committee will meet annually to discuss the design and implementation of the Parent Involvement Policy.

Windthorst Elementary will actively recruit volunteers for the SBDM Committee through the school newsletter and the Title 1 Annual Meeting. Committee selections will produce a diverse group of stakeholders that represent an array of student populations served by the district.

Meetings will be planned at convenient times and locations for all concerned parties. If a translator is needed, the campus will arrange for one to be present.

Parent Involvement Activities to Improve Student Academic Achievement and School Performance

One of the primary functions of the SBDM will be to identify ways that Windthorst Elementary can plan and implement effective parent involvement programs. The campus will also promote and encourage staff development for employees on establishing effective relationships with parents as a means to increase academic achievement.

The student handbook will include:

- The campus' Parent Involvement Policy.
- Information on the parent's right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers.
- Information explaining state academic standards and assessments.
- A description and explanation of the school's curriculum.

During the school year, parents will also be provided with:

- Timely information about programs.
- Information on the level of achievement of the parent's child in each of the required state academic assessments.
- Frequent reports on their child's progress.
- Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and observe.
- A Home-School compact that describes parents' and the schools' responsibilities.
- Parent-teacher conferences after the first nine weeks and again if needed in February.
- The Home-School compact will be discussed at the Parent Orientation.
- A flexible number of meetings, such as meeting in the afternoon or evening, and may provide, with Title I funds, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services are related to parental involvement.
- As necessary, timely notice if their child has been assigned or taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.
- A night devoted to information regarding the state assessment including materials and training to help parents to work with their child.

Building the Schools' and Parents' Capacity for Strong Parent Involvement

Windthorst Elementary will involve the SBDM in identifying barriers to parent involvement and to provide parent involvement strategies. The campus will

support a variety of parental involvement strategies as it strives to develop and maintain an optimum learning environment for all students. To the extent practicable, parents of LEP, disabled, and Migratory students will be given full opportunities to participate in parent involvement activities. Information will be provided, to the extent practicable, in a format and language such parents understand.

Annual Title I Parent Meeting: Windthorst Elementary will hold an annual meeting to review Title I guidelines and services offered through the campus. Copies of the campus' current Parent Involvement Policy and the Windthorst Elementary Home-School Compact will be distributed at the meeting. Parents will be encouraged to become involved in revising and updating the policy as necessary, and parent volunteers will be recruited for the district SBDM.

The meeting will be held at a convenient time and location; notice of the meeting will be provided through written invitations to parents and through public notices. If needed, a translator will be available to help with non-English speaking parents.

Home-School Compact: In accordance with Title I regulations, the campus will develop and annually update a home-school compact. This compact will explain how students, parents, and staff will share responsibility for student performance and success, and will enable them to do so. Members of the SBDM Committee will be consulted in the design and implementation of the compact. All parents will be given a copy of the compact detailing the responsibilities that teachers, parents, and students have in helping students accomplish their goals. Students and parents are encouraged to discuss the contents of the compact. They are also encouraged to sign that they are in agreement with the compact and return them to the school; however, parents and/or students are not required to return the compacts to school.

Staff/Parent Communication: Parents will be informed of school activities through various avenues of communication throughout the school year. Newsletters, the WISD website, conferences, personal contacts, and written notices will be utilized to establish and maintain an open line of communication.

Staff development will include strategies to promote effective parent involvement activities. Activities will educate all staff members in the value of parent involvement.

Cross-Program Coordination of Parent Involvement Activities

Parent Involvement strategies will be incorporated into Windthorst Elementary's curriculum and programs through the Campus and District Improvement Plan. Parent Involvement will be a top priority and will be aligned with the entire

educational program. If the plan is not satisfactory to parents, comments can be submitted by notifying the principal or the superintendent

Windthorst Elementary will coordinate Title I Parent Involvement activities with other programs within the district to meet special needs.

Annual Evaluation

The SBDM Committee will annually review and evaluate all aspects of the parent involvement program. Parent surveys including questions about the effectiveness of the program will be distributed and the results analyzed. Teacher surveys will be used to determine the number and kind of interaction between school and parents. The SBDM Committee will revise the campus Parent Involvement Policy and Home-School Compact based on the results of this annual review.

Involving Parents in Activities of Title I Campuses

Windthorst Elementary will use Title I funds to provide school wide services to all students of Windthorst Elementary. Parents will be involved in a variety of strategies as the campus strives to develop and maintain an optimum learning environment for all students. Parents may contribute through volunteer programs, as well as by creating a supportive home atmosphere. The community may participate through an array of activities that promote student success. The campus and its parents will develop and maintain specific parent involvement activities best suited to meet the individual needs of all stakeholders.

Parents have the right to submit dissenting views to the school district if the school's school-wide program is not acceptable to them.