

Revised June 10, 2020

Parent and Family Engagement Policy
Windthorst ISD
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 ISD 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 evaluated and amended during the annual SBDM Title I evaluation and planning meeting. The policy will be posted on the website each year.

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 and Family Engagement Policy.

Windthorst ISD 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 ISD can plan and implement effective parent and family engagement programs. The district 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.
- Assistance to parents/families in understanding such topics and the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, how to monitor a student's progress, and how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.
- Materials and training to help parents to work with their students to improve their child's achievement such as literacy and technology.
- Other reasonable support for parental and family engagement activities under this section as parents may request.
- 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.

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

Windthorst ISD will involve the SBDM in identifying barriers to parent involvement and to provide parent involvement strategies. The district 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. The district will ensure facilities and materials are available for parent and family engagement activities.

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 and Family Engagement 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 multiple convenient times and locations; notice of the meetings 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.

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. The district shall ensure that information related to school and parent/family programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents/families in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Staff development will include strategies to promote effective parent involvement activities. Activities will educate all staff members in the value of parent involvement. The district shall educate teachers, specialized instruction support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents/families, and how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between the parents and the school.

Cross-Program Coordination of Parent Involvement Activities

Parent Involvement strategies will be incorporated into Windthorst ISD's curriculum and programs through the District Improvement Plan. Parent Involvement will be a top priority and will be aligned with the entire educational program. The district will coordinate and integrate Parent Involvement strategies with parent involvement strategies of other programs such as:

Pre Kindergarten

Title III

Annual Evaluation

The SBDM Committee will annually review and evaluate all aspects of the parent and family engagement program. Parent surveys including questions about the effectiveness of the program will be distributed and the results analyzed. Parent and teacher surveys in the fall will be used to determine the number and kind of interaction between school and parents using evidence based strategies for more effective parental involvement. The SBDM Committee will revise the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy based on the results of this annual review. The district will focus on identifying barriers to greater participation of parents in

Title I related activities with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, and parents of limited English proficiency, limited literacy or any racial or ethnic minority background, revise the policy where necessary to address ways to overcome identified barriers.

Involving Parents in Activities of Title I Campuses

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