

# DEER PARK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT-WIDE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

## PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Deer Park Independent School District (DPISD) agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- DPISD will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents/guardians in all of its schools.
- The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents/guardians in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents/guardians of participating children.
- Consistent with the NCLB, the school district will work with its Title IA schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement/family engagement policies meet the requirements of the NCLB, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact.
- DPISD will incorporate this district-wide family engagement plan into its Local Education Agency (LEA) plan developed under the NCLB.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A family engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents/guardians with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), parents/guardians with disabilities, and parents/guardians of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under the NCLB in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language parents/guardians understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under the NCLB, is not satisfactory to the parents/guardians of participating children, the school

district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the Texas Education Agency.

- The school district will involve parents/guardians of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the one percent (1%) of Title I, Part A funds reserved for family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than ninety-five percent (95%) of the one percent (1%) reserved goes directly to the schools.
- DPISD will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement/family engagement and expect that its Title I, Part A 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) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in the NCLB.

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT-WIDE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN COMPONENTS

- The school district will take the following actions to involve parents/guardians in the joint development of its district-wide family engagement plan under the NCLB:

The district-wide family engagement plan will be discussed and amendments made, if any, during a regularly-scheduled meeting of the Educational Improvement Council (EIC), PTO Round Table and/or a Focus

Session. The results of the annual evaluations on the effectiveness of family engagement will be used during discussion of the plan. The district-wide family engagement plan will also be presented during any other district-wide meetings involving parents/guardians in order to obtain any additional parental input on the plan. Once per school year, the plan will be posted on the district website for any additional parent input or comments.

- DPISD will take the following actions to involve parents/guardians in the process of school review and improvement under the NCLB:

The district will send information on academic assessments home with each student, to the extent possible, in a format and language easily understandable by parents/guardians. This information will be posted on the district website. The information will also be disseminated and discussed at district-wide meetings involving parents/guardians: EIC and/or PTO Round Table.

- The school district will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

The district will meet with Title I, Part A campus administrators yearly to disseminate current information, documentation, forms, and guidelines for Title I, Part A schools regarding family engagement. The district will meet with each Title I, Part A campus yearly to conduct a family engagement training, which includes the necessary campus requirements for family engagement, as well as strategies for effective family engagement.

- DPISD will coordinate and integrate family engagement strategies in Title I, Part A programs with family engagement strategies under the following other programs: Family Literacy Program, TLC, PPCD, Co-op Programs with the Methodist Church and the Deer Park Community Center, and Pre-K, by:

The district will invite parents/guardians to participate in the same or similar activities conducted by the district and/or campuses. Invitations to programs, meetings and other activities will be posted on the district

website, campus websites, published in the local newspaper, and/or sent home with each student. These invitations will be in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practicable, in a language that the parents/guardians can understand.

- The school district will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents/guardians, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this family engagement plan in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents/guardians in family engagement activities (with particular attention to parents/guardians who are economically disadvantaged, or disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its family engagement plan and activities to design strategies for more effective family engagement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents/guardians) its family engagement policies.

An annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the district-wide family engagement plan will be discussed during a regularly-scheduled meeting of the EIC, PTO Round Table and/or a Focus Session. The results of the evaluation will be used to amend the district-wide family engagement plan, if necessary. The current plan will be presented during any other district-wide meetings involving parents/guardians in order to obtain any additional comments.

- DPISD will build the schools' and parents/guardians' capacity for strong family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents/guardians and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents/guardians and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

(A) The school district will, with the assistance of all its campuses, as well as its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents/guardians of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph –

- 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 the Title I, Part A programs (Title IA schools only)
- How to monitor their child’s progress, and
- How to work with educators

The district will assist parents/guardians in understanding such topics by conducting parent meetings where the topics and documents are discussed. Handouts will be distributed, if applicable. These topics will also be discussed at the EIC and/or PTO Round Table meetings, as well as Campus Improvement Council (CIC) meetings and other campus meetings.

- (B) DPISD will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents/guardians work with their children to improve their children’s academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster family engagement, by:

The district will provide materials and training by conducting parent meetings. These topics are also discussed at the EIC and/or PTO Round Table meetings, as well as CIC meetings, campus PTO “report card” meetings, and other campus meetings. Campuses will conduct Family Literacy/Reading/Match/Science nights to assist with this type of training.

- (C) The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents/guardians educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents/guardians as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents/guardians, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents/guardians and schools, by:

The district will conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the district-wide family engagement plan, which will be used to prepare/amend the family engagement training (discussed in Part II above), which includes the necessary campus requirements for family engagement, as well as strategies for effective family engagement.

- (D) DPISD will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate family engagement programs and activities with public preschool and other programs that encourage and support parents/guardians in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

The district will invite parents/guardians of students enrolled at the Early Childhood Center (ECC) to participate in the same or similar activities/meetings as parents/guardians from our other campuses. Day care and parenting classes are also provided for enrolled students who are parents, along with transportation. The district also provides, in coordination with Deepwater Elementary (DWE) and the Harris County Department of Education (HCDE) English and GED classes to parents/guardians of all district students.

- (E) The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent/guardian programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents/guardians of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents/guardians can understand:

Invitations to programs, meetings and other activities will be posted on the district website, published in the local newspaper and/or sent home with each student. At campuses with high percentage of ELL students, such information will be available in both English and Spanish. Whenever else possible, and to the extent practicable, this information will be provided in a language that the parents/guardians can understand.

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT-WIDE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN COMPONENTS

DPISD conducts, in consultation with its parents/guardians, to undertake to build parents/guardians' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, the following discretionary activities listed under the NCLB:

- Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with family engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents/guardians to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- Providing other reasonable support for family engagement activities under the NCLB as parents/guardians may request.