

SONORA ISD

TITLE 1 PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

&

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

2021-2022

Statement of Purpose

Sonora Independent School District (SISD) recognizes the complex challenge of empowering students to succeed in a world of rapid change and is committed to meeting the ever-changing demands of 21st century education. We are a family, a community, a team; we dedicate ourselves and our resources to provide every child with every opportunity to become more tomorrow than can be imagined today.

The SISD cannot stand-alone and encourages support and collaboration from home. Research demonstrates the more fervently parents are involved in their child's learning the more beneficial the achievement effects. Research also suggests that offering a variety of parent participation opportunities results in a highly effective parental involvement program. For SISD, parental involvement is an important resource in enhancing educational opportunities and advancing academic achievement for students. Additionally, parent involvement will open lines of communication and strengthen the rapport between the school and home.

Developing the Policy

The SISD will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of the SISD family engagement plan.

The SISD will ensure that families can be engaged in their child's education. The SISD Parent Involvement Policy was jointly developed with parents of SISD students and ensures that parent representatives from each campus, along with school administrators and teachers will be appointed to serve on the District Education Improvement Committee (DEIC) as an effort to involve parents in the continued review and development of this document. The policy will be a dynamic document that will be evaluated, reviewed, and modified by the committee annually.

School-Parent Compacts and Campus Parent Involvement Plans

Each SISD campus will consult with their Campus Education Improvement Committee (CEIC) to annually develop, review, and revise the campus parent involvement policy and school-parent compact.

Each campus with the SISD is required to include parent representatives in the process of school review and improvement. Parent representatives are active members of the campus planning committees and are encouraged to give suggestions for improvements. The SISD will ensure all parent representatives have a voice in the meetings and are engaged before decisions are made.

The campus planning committees, conducted with the joint participation of parents, will review student performance, assessments and proficiency levels, and education and intervention programs implemented at the campus level. In addition, this committee will develop and/or revise the campus parent involvement policy and the school-parent compact that outlines how parents and the school staff will share the responsibility for student achievement, both of which are distributed to parents at the beginning of each school year.

The school-parent compact must address the following:

1. The responsibility of the campus to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction.
2. Explain how students, parents, and staff will share responsibility for student performance and success. Members of the CEIC will be consulted in the design and implementation of the compacts.
3. The importance of ongoing communication and means of communication (parent-teacher conferences, progress reports, access to staff).

Annually Sonora ISD will assess the needs of parents and children in the school community using a variety of tools. The results of the data collection will be utilized for programmatic planning to meet the stated needs.

Working Together to Improve the School for all Children

Each campus committee will also be tasked in designing the parent involvement program for its campus. Activities in this program should include any training offered to parents, programs available to assist parents, and meetings scheduled at the school. Activities will also be developed to encourage parents' interaction with their children. These activities may include:

- Family literacy nights
- Parent appreciation Thanksgiving Luncheon
- Fall festival
- Back to School and Meet the Teacher events
- Open House
- Evening of the Arts.

SISD views all parents as partners in their child's education. Parents will receive frequent reports concerning their child's educational progress. Report cards will be sent home at the end of each six-week grading period and progress reports will be sent home at the three-week period in between. An online portal will be available for parents to access to review their child's grades and attendance at all times.

Parent-teacher conferences will be scheduled twice a year to review student progress. Materials will be provided to parents to use at home to support their child's academic performance.

Reasonable Access to School Staff

Parents will have reasonable access to school staff. All staff members and administrators are available by phone, e-mail, and in person during designated times. Teachers have a conference period scheduled during which time they can speak with, or meet with, parents. Teachers may make themselves available after school, but parents should be aware that they are not required to stay after school hours. Other communication efforts may include in-home visits, newsletters, the district radio show, the SISD website (www.sonoraisd.net), the school Facebook and Twitter feeds, the Remind 101 app, and campus correspondence letters. Communication with parents regarding instructional programs, student progress, scheduled meetings, and school activities will be provided in a language and format they understand to the greatest extent practicable in accordance with the Sonora ISD Translation Policy. Interpreters are available for translating meetings and written documents.

Parents may contact school staff members through a phone call to the main campus office or e-mailing the teacher or staff member. Appointments may be scheduled to meet with staff members directly through the main office or by means on the contact methods previously mentioned. The teacher and parent will seek to find a meeting time that works well for each parties schedule and does not disrupt instruction.

In addition to other requested meetings with teachers, parents may speak with teachers during the bi-annual parent-teacher conference.

School staff will respond by the close of business the day after a parent makes a request. If a parent asks for a meeting, the staff member will respond with this time frame to schedule it. The meeting should be scheduled within a week or at the earliest possible convenience of everyone involved.

Opportunities to Volunteer and Participate in School Activities

Parents will be provided with opportunities to volunteer with the school and participate in their child's classroom activities. These opportunities may include activities such as:

- Classroom volunteer
- Reading volunteer
- Assistance in the library
- Fundraising
- Field trips
- Family nights
- Class parties
- Distribution of materials and supplies
- Other activities identified by teachers or school staff members and communicated to their campus principal.

Information will be provided to parents when the need for volunteers arises. Parents may also speak with the campus principal to inquire about specific volunteer opportunities.

Funding

If the Title I Part A allocation is more than \$500,000 or more, then at least 1% of the allocation must be set aside for the implementation of the parent involvement program.

Evaluation

The DEIC and CEIC will annually review and evaluate all aspects of the parental involvement program. The district and campus parental involvement policies will be revised based on the results of the annual review.

Conclusion

This policy promotes educational opportunities for all students and builds capacity for parents to become key stakeholders in their child's education.