

Family Engagement Policy

Valley Heights Elementary

Valley Heights will incorporate the following 6 standards toward family engagement to promote parent/family involvement. These standards are endorsed by the PTA National Standards for Family School Partnerships, and are part of an effective MTSS (multi-tiered system of support) framework. These standards include: 1) welcoming all families into the school community, 2) communicating effectively, 3) supporting student success, 4) speaking up for every child, 5) sharing power, 6) collaborating with the community.

To incorporate these standards, the Valley Heights Elementary Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its Family Engagement Policy.

- A parent involvement committee will meet with administrators and staff to maximize parental involvement and to be aware of concerns and ideas.
- Parent volunteers will be utilized throughout the buildings in the classroom and for school activities. Parents/family members may sign up to be volunteers at enrollment, through Community Education or by contacting an individual teacher/staff member.

Valley Heights Elementary Schools will jointly develop/revise with parents the Family Engagement Policy and distribute it to parents of participating children at our annual meeting, and make available the Family Engagement Policy to the local community through our website. Additional languages may be accessed through our website. In addition:

- A flexible number of meetings will be made available to have contact with as many parents as possible.
- The policy will be reviewed and revised during the meeting. Revision suggestions will be submitted to the LEA (Local Education Agency).
- Parents/families of participating children will be given information regarding programs provided by the district, including Title One, Reading Recovery,

preschool, Kinder-prep, etc., and the KPIRC website. A link to KPIRC is available on our website.

- Explanations of the curriculum and academic assessment information will be given to parents at parent/teacher conferences, held twice a year. Parents are always encouraged to meet with teachers/staff when a need or concern arises. Families will be encouraged to be an active participant in making decisions relating to the successful education of their children.
- As a component of the family engagement policy, the school/parent compact will be reviewed annually. The compact will be used as a tool for discussion during parent/teacher conferences, and other occasions, as needed.
- Staff will provide frequent (weekly, monthly, mid-quarter, quarterly) reports to parents/families on their child's progress, and provide reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate/observe classroom and extra curricular activities. (Examples would be Grandparent's Day, Literacy night, special event activities, etc.)

This Valley Heights Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed upon with parents of children participating in the Title 1 program.

The Family Engagement Policy was developed by Valley Heights in September, 2011 and will be in effect for the period of the school year. The school will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title 1 children and make it available to the community.

Attached are specific areas where the standards are applied in our elementary buildings.