



# SHELDON ISD DISTRICT PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

Sheldon ISD believes that parents (including those who are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities, have limited English, have limited literacy, are of any racial or ethnic minority background, or are parents of migratory children) are partners with teachers and other staff in the education of their children and that parent involvement and empowerment are essential at all levels throughout the school district.

Sheldon ISD believes that student academic achievement requires that parents have an understanding of curriculum, academic achievement standards, assessments, district/school policies and procedures, and of how to monitor their children's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.

**District Administration shall work in collaboration with parents and guardians and shall actively support the schools and parents in enhancing parent involvement by:**

- respecting parents as partners in the education of their children;
- valuing diversity and the need for equity in each school;
- promoting parent involvement in district leadership and decision-making;
- fostering a welcoming and responsive environment for parents;
- ensuring accountability of the staff at all levels throughout the district in working with parents as partners;
- valuing the need for partnerships within public and private entities in the Sheldon community;
- ensuring flexibility and accessibility within Central Administration operations and flexibility within district-wide processes and procedures; and
- establishing and promoting communication as a source of trust and understanding between the district and parents.

**Principals, teachers and all school staff shall work in collaboration with parents and guardians by:**

- respecting parents as partners in the education of their children and honoring their role as first and life-long teachers;
- valuing diversity and equity in each child's learning;
- setting high expectations for excellent customer (student/parent) service;
- expecting high student achievement for all students;
- promoting parent involvement in site-based leadership and decision making;
- valuing partnerships within the public and private entities within the Sheldon community;
- ensuring flexibility and accessibility within school-wide operations and flexibility within school processes and procedures; and
- establishing and promoting communication as a source of trust and understanding between the school and parents.

**Parents/Guardians are asked and encouraged to be involved in their children's learning and education by:**

- taking the initiative to seek the best educational opportunities for their children;
- understanding and respecting the mission and values of the school;
- respecting teachers and supporting school staff as partners in the education of their children;
- demonstrating respect for the school as a whole, including the faculty and staff;
- developing jointly with the teacher, a school-parent compact for their child that outlines how the parents, the school and the student will share the responsibility for improved academic achievement;
- identifying and addressing barriers to parent involvement;
- understanding school procedures and opportunities to contribute or receive support;
- participating in the development of the school parent involvement plan and the review and evaluation of the plan;
- utilizing two-way lines of communication between parents, school staff and the district on the instruction, achievement and conduct of their children;
- participating in training opportunities that will include but are not limited to: strategies/reinforcing learning at home, discipline, and understanding cultural differences;
- valuing diversity and the need for equity in each child’s learning;
- participating in site-based leadership and decision making;
- volunteering in their children’s schools; and
- supporting and engaging in developing partnerships within the Sheldon community.

A district-wide parent advisory council, made up of district stakeholders to be appointed according to procedures approved by the Superintendent, shall be established to make recommendations regarding strategies to implement and ensure success of this policy. The council shall draft regulations to address the requirements of Section 1118 of the No Child Left Behind Act, which shall be reviewed annually and revised as needed by the District-Wide Instructional Improvement Council (DWIIC) and the Associate Superintendent who serves as the Superintendent’s designee.

**PART I. DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT-WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

1. The Sheldon Independent School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA as well as to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

*The District-Wide Instructional Improvement Council (DWIIC), made up of district stakeholders to be appointed according to procedures approved by the Superintendent, shall be established to make recommendations regarding strategies to implement and ensure success of this policy. The council shall draft regulations to address the requirements of Section 1118 of the No Child Left Behind Act, which shall be reviewed annually and revised as needed. The DWIIC will meet a minimum of four (4) times each year. The council will consist of a representative of the following:*

- Professional staff from each campus
- Parent(s) from each campus
- Business Partner
- Community

*(For additional information regarding the guidelines for the development and responsibilities of the DWIIC, see policies at BQA and BQB.)*

2. The Sheldon Independent 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 parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

*The district will provide a District Parent Liaison to facilitate parent workshops/training opportunities. The Parent Liaison will be responsible for oral/written communications to reflect the needs of the population (English/Spanish)*

3. The Sheldon Independent School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies provided by the district with parental involvement strategies under the following additional programs such as: Head Start, Young Learners, Parents As Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and State-operated preschool programs by:

- *Conducting a yearly consultation to share Parent Training Opportunities*
- *Collaborate with center Directors of Young Learners*

4. The Sheldon Independent School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are 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 parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

A. *The DWIIC will conduct an annual review of the District Parental Involvement Plan in an effort of promoting active parental involvement and engagement in improving student achievement and overall performance. The DWIIC will review the following data points throughout the year as part of the evaluation process that will drive the planning process:*

- *Results from the Parent Survey (conducted yearly)*
- *Elements of Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR)*
- *Data generated from Curriculum-Based Assessments (CBAs)*
- *Data used to develop the District Comprehensive-Needs Assessment*

B. *The DWIIC will be facilitated by the Associate Superintendent who will involve the necessary departments to achieve the desired goals and expectations.*

5. The Sheldon Independent School District will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

*A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents 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,*

- *how to monitor their child's progress, and*
- *how to work with educators:*

*Each school within the district will be required to provide an annual meeting with parents to discuss the Title I, Part A requirements, school report card, Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR), Title budgets, and expectations for achieving desired goals. The district will present in an open forum, the District Report Cards, Texas Academic Performance Report, and other pertinent data required by law.*

*The district will host an annual parent/community meeting to share information regarding Title Programs and how funds will be used to support district goals. Private Non-Profit entities will be invited to attend as well.*

*B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by implementing the following:*

**1. Parent Training:**

*These are opportunities to help parents develop skills to use at home that support their children's academic efforts and social development. They provide parents with techniques and strategies, which they may utilize to improve their children's academic success and to assist their children in learning at home. A "Parent Needs Assessment Survey" is conducted at the end of each school year to identify areas of parental interest for future parent trainings. Some of these activities may include:*

- |                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>*Family Math Night</i>   | <i>*Science Fair</i>      |
| <i>*Read Aloud</i>          | <i>*Home-School Links</i> |
| <i>*Storytelling Events</i> | <i>*Homework Help</i>     |
| <i>*Literacy Training</i>   | <i>*Parent Resources</i>  |
| <i>*Using Technology</i>    |                           |

**2. Parent Support:**

▪ ***Homework***

*Homework serves a number of purposes: to practice, extend, and enrich classroom learning, to develop responsibility and work habits, and to provide parents an opportunity to interact with their children and their education. Parents can support the school and their child's success by helping with homework in the following ways:*

- 1. Help your child get organized. Remind him/her to bring home the homework folder and necessary materials to complete the assignments.*
- 2. Agree upon a regular study time and stick to it.*
- 3. See that your child has a regular, suitable study place, with good light, plenty of room, and no distractions (TV, phone, family noise, etc.).*
- 4. Ask to see what your child has done each night and that it is returned to the teacher. Show interest in what he or she does at school.*
- 5. Contact the teacher if your child has difficulty understanding an assignment. Our goal is to help your child reach grade level standards and beyond.*

▪ ***Citizenship and Student Behavior***

*Students are to display good citizenship in the cafeteria, on the playground, on the bus, and in the classroom. Staff and parents should work together to help children understand the meaning and importance of good citizenship and how to make the right choices.*

*Specific rights, rules and responsibilities regarding student behavior are detailed in the Student/Parent Handbook. Each student is provided with a copy of this handbook at the beginning of the school year.*

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

- *Providing Professional Development*
- *District Parental Involvement Workshop/Trainings on each campus*

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

*The staff of Sheldon ISD, with the support of Title 1, seeks to involve parents in an effective home-school partnership in order to provide the best possible education for our students.*

***Regular Communication with Parents:***

*In order to build consistent, effective and timely communication between the home and school, we will provide regular communication which will include the following:*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <i>*School Newsletters</i>                            | <i>*Annual School Calendars</i>          |
| <i>*Parent – Teacher Reading Compact</i>              | <i>*Report Cards</i>                     |
| <i>*District Newsletters</i>                          | <i>*Special Event / Reminder Notices</i> |
| <i>*Yearly Parent Conferences</i>                     | <i>*Homework/Conduct Folders</i>         |
| <i>*School Assemblies (Parents Invited)</i>           | <i>*District Website</i>                 |
| <i>*School messenger district phone system (IRIS)</i> | <i>*Parent-Teacher Conferences</i>       |

*All written communication will be provided in English and Spanish to reflect the needs of the population. The district also provides a Language Translation System allowing simultaneous interpretation during parent trainings and workshops.*

**PART II. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT -WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

***1. Parent Visitations***

*A wonderful way for parents to show their child they are interested in his/her life at school is to visit the classroom. The school welcomes any parent who wishes to help through the school Volunteer Program.*

***2. Parent Participation***

*Parent Involvement at the school and district level is encouraged through the following committees:*

- *Parent Volunteer Program – Plans student activities and raises funds for “extras” needed.*

- *School Representative Council/District Wide Instructional Improvement Council determines school improvement goals and prioritizes budget expenditures for some categorical programs. They will also determine how the 1% reserved Title I funds will be spent to support parent involvement.*

***Other opportunities for participation include:***

*PALS Volunteer Program*

*School Site Activities PTO/PTA Book Fairs*

*Field Trips*

*Field Day*

*Friday Snacks*

### **PART III. ADOPTION**

This District wide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by a meeting conducted on January 27 and March 9, 2016 with the District-Wide Instructional Improvement Council.

This policy was accepted by the Sheldon Independent School District on March 9, 2016. The school district will post this document on the district's website making it available to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children.

Please note: Individual Campus Parental Involvement Policies have been developed and are available on each campus' website.