

Bowie ISD Parental Involvement Policy

Statement of Purpose

The mission of Bowie Independent School District is to ensure a safe, positive, supportive, nurturing environment in which to educate all students through a commitment to highly reliable standards to develop knowledgeable thinkers integrated in technology in order to be prepared to succeed in any forum they may choose. In accomplishing this mission, the district recognizes the importance in developing and maintaining partnerships with parents and community members. A positive link between community, home, and school will create the most conducive learning condition for every child. These open communication lines will expand and enhance learning opportunities for all stakeholders.

Grade level learning objectives and goals will also be distributed to all parents at the beginning of the school year. *All* students will be expected to work toward mastering these objectives. Our district recognizes the fact that some students will need extra assistance to achieve their full potential. The extra assistance is available to all students through the Title I program and various other educational services offered through the district.

Bowie ISD intends to include parents in all aspects of the Title I program. Students will be given every opportunity for success through the development and enhancement of the Parent-Student-Teacher partnership.

Parent Involvement in Developing Policy

The District Improvement Team (DIT) is comprised of parents, community members, administrators, teachers, and other staff members. This committee will meet annually to evaluate various programs including community and parent involvement.

Bowie ISD will actively recruit volunteers for the DIT through various avenues of publicity. 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 district 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 DIT will be to identify ways that Bowie ISD can provide assistance and support to its campuses to create effective parent involvement. The administration will assist schools in understanding the requirements of Title I, Part A and in planning for effective programs to help parents in improving academic achievement.

District assistance may also include the distribution of informational handouts which explain state academic standards, assessments, and curriculum. Bowie ISD will also promote and encourage staff development for employees on establishing effective relationships with parents as a means to increase academic achievement.

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

Bowie ISD will involve the DIT in identifying and addressing barriers to parent involvement and participation. The district will serve as a guide and resource for each campus by providing a variety of parental involvement strategies in order to develop and maintain an optimum learning environment for all students.

Annual Title I Parent Meeting: Each campus will hold an annual meeting to review Title I guidelines and services offered through the district. Copies of the district's current Parent Involvement Policy and the Bowie Parent-Student-Teacher 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 DIT.

The meeting will be held at a convenient time and location; notice of the meeting 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.

Parent-Student-Teacher Compact: In accordance with Title I regulations, each Title 1 campus will develop and periodically update the Parent-Student-Teacher compact. This compact will explain how students, parents, and staff will share responsibility for student performance and success, and will enable them to do so. Parents, teachers, and students will be consulted in the design and implementation of the compact. All parents will be given a copy of the compact detailing the responsibilities that teachers, parents, and students have in helping students accomplish their goals. Students and parents are encouraged to discuss the contents of the compact. They are also encouraged to sign that they are in agreement with the compact and return them to the school; however, parents and/or students are not required to return the compacts to school. The compact can also be found in the student handbook.

Staff/Parent Communication: Parents will be informed of school activities through various avenues of communication throughout the school year. Newsletters, conferences, personal contacts, and written notices will be utilized to establish and maintain an open line of communication. As appropriate, notification will be provided in a language parents understand. Staff development will include strategies to promote effective parent involvement activities and relationships.

Cross-Program Coordination of Parent Involvement Activities

Parent Involvement strategies will be incorporated into the school's curriculum and programs through the District Improvement Plan. Parent Involvement will be an established goal and will be aligned with the entire educational program.

Bowie ISD will coordinate Title I Parent Involvement activities with other programs within the district to meet special needs.

Annual Evaluation

The DIT will annually review and evaluate all aspects of the parent involvement program by distributing surveys and collecting data at all Title I campuses. Parent surveys including questions about the effectiveness of the program will be distributed and the results analyzed. The evaluation will include an assessment of how much parent involvement is increasing and what barriers to parent participation still need to be overcome. Teacher surveys will be used to determine the number and kind of interaction between schools and parents. The DIT will suggest revisions to the district Parent Involvement Policy and Parent-Student-Teacher Compact based on the results of this annual review.

Involving Parents in Activities of Title I Campuses

Bowie ISD will use Title I funds to provide school wide services to all students on the district's Title I campuses. Parents will be involved in a variety of strategies as the district strives to develop and maintain an optimum learning environment for all students. Parents may contribute through volunteer programs at Title I campuses, as well as by creating a supportive home atmosphere. The community may participate through an array of activities that promote student success. Each campus will be encouraged to develop and maintain specific parent involvement activities best suited to meet the individual needs of all stakeholders.

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