



SOUTHSIDE ISD

Title I-Southside ISD

Family and Community Engagement Policy

2024-2025

**This document is available in Spanish upon request.*

Southside ISD agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- Southside ISD will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all schools with Title I, Part A Programs, consistent with Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents.
- Southside ISD will work with schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement plans meet the requirements of the ESSA, and each campus includes a school-parent-student compact.
- Southside ISD will incorporate this plan into its District Improvement Plan.
- In carrying out Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, Southside ISD and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities and parents of migratory children. Southside ISD will provide information and required school reports in an understandable and uniform format in a language parents understand.
- Southside ISD will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement are spent and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent goes directly to the schools.
- Southside ISD will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance--(A) Support from Title I Liaison; (B) Professional development provided to Title I instructional staff by reading and math Coordinators; (C) Title I Collaborative Meetings.
- In Southside ISD, parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, ensuring that—(A) parents play an integral role in their child’s learning; (B) parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school; (C) 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.

Statement of Purpose

Southside ISD recognizes that partnering with parents is an essential component of the educational process. The District values parents and acknowledges that they play an extremely important role in their child's education. To that end, Southside ISD encourages parents to work in partnership with school staff to help students achieve at the highest levels. In order for this to be accomplished, it is essential that parents stay informed about their child's academic progress.

Campus Parental Involvement Plans

All school activities will give proper consideration to the involvement of parents. Each school has a School-Based Decision-Making committee (SBDM) consisting of parents, teachers, administrators, community members, and other school staff. The committee will meet annually to update the Campus Parental Involvement Plan. The goal is to have parents play a vital role in decision making regarding the Title I program.

School-Parent-Student Compacts

Each school must share responsibility with parents for high student academic performance by developing a school parent compact. This compact identifies how parents, staff, and students will share responsibility for improving student academic achievement. Parents in each school will be involved in designing the compacts. Parents will receive the compact which lists the responsibilities that teachers, parents, and students will have for helping students achieve their goals. Parents and teachers are strongly urged to discuss the compact during conferences and with the students.

Opportunities for Parental Involvement

There are many ways in which parents can become involved in their children's education. Southside ISD values both at home contributions and those which take place at school and in the community. Many types of parental involvement are needed in a school-home partnership to ensure that all children succeed. Each Title I campus is responsible for creating meaningful ways for parents to be involved in their child's education. Some opportunities for parents to take an active role include Campus Academic Nights, Campus Advisory Teams, District Title I Parent Advisory Committee, Workshops (Family Engagement Sessions) and other school-based groups. This Family and Community Engagement Policy will be distributed during the first six weeks of the school year and campus parental meetings during the course of the year.

Parent/Staff Communication

Communication with parents may include a Title I Newsletter posted electronically throughout the year. The district will develop a Community Engagement website "hub" to assist parents with locating activities, resources, and documents related to our Title I Part A programs and requirements. School notices are sent home with students or shared via electronic means. Phone calls, conferences and home visits are scheduled as needed.

Parents are encouraged to take the initiative to contact their child's teacher to monitor progress as well as when they have a concern. Parents may request a translator for conferences. As much as possible, notices will be sent home in a language parents understand. School staff will also receive training on the importance of parental involvement and tips for communicating with parents.

Parent Assistance

Southside ISD will, with the assistance of Title I schools, provide assistance to parents in understanding topics such as academic content standards, state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments, how to monitor progress and how to work with educators. Opportunities for assistance will include district and campus Title I meetings held at various times of the year and day, parent/teacher conferences, campus parent education sessions, and campus family engagement activities.

Annual School Orientation Meeting

Title I campuses will host an annual meeting for parents where information about Title I guidelines will be distributed.

Parents will be provided copies of the current Family and Community Engagement Policy and are offered an opportunity to provide feedback.

Parents have input on how Title I funds will be used; including funds for parental involvement activities. Volunteers may serve on district-wide and individual campus advisory committees. Translation will be provided so that all parents may participate.

Annual District Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Public Meeting

Southside ISD will host an annual consultation of the content and effectiveness of all federal programs. Parents will be invited to provide input. During this meeting, activities from the current year will be reviewed and activities for the upcoming year will be planned. Parent survey data and feedback from all ESSA programs will be discussed.

Building Capacity

Southside ISD will build a school and parent capacity for strong parental involvement to ensure effective engagement of parents. The district will support partnerships among the school, parents and the community to improve student academic achievement. Efforts to build capacity include the Annual Title I Orientation Meeting on campuses, parent/teacher conferences, and campus parent education sessions, informational performance reports on district/state assessments, report cards, progress reports and explanation of test scores.

Evaluation

Southside ISD will make an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities. Southside ISD will use the findings to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents), its parental involvement plans.

The goal is to evaluate Title I schools by collecting information in a variety of ways, including parent surveys, program evaluations, and school report cards.

Conclusion

Southside ISD is committed to the success of all students and will continue to seek active participation by families. The District will partner with parents to monitor the effectiveness of all parental

involvement activities and the Title I Program. This policy will be implemented by administrators, principals, and staff both at the campus and district levels.

This policy was reviewed by Southside ISD on December 17, 2024 and will be in effect for the school year 2024-2025.

Non-Discrimination Statement

It is the policy of the Southside Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, veteran or military status, disability, age, or any other legally protected status, as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1965 as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.