

Kerr Middle School

Parental Involvement Policy & School-Parent Compact

Statement of Purpose

The Kerr Middle School and Campus Improvement Plans states: Educators will be full partners with parents and the community in the education of their children. A successful public education system is directly related to a strong, dedicated and supportive family, and parental involvement in the school is essential for the maximum educational achievement of a child. (Excerpt from the 74th Texas Legislature Mission of Public Education)

Research studies consistently reveal that high student achievement and self-esteem are closely related to positive parental participation in education. Parents and school leaders need to work together as knowledgeable partners so all children can succeed in school.

Although parents are diverse in culture, language, and needs, they share the school's commitment to the educational success of their children. This school, in collaboration with parents, has established programs and practices that enhance parent involvement and reflect the specific needs of students and their families.

Parent Involvement in Developing Campus Policy

An Advisory Committee consisting of parents, members of the community, teachers, and principals will meet to develop our school's Parental Involvement Policy. Our Advisory Committee will be chosen from volunteers who represent parents, members of the community, teachers, and other campus staff. Special attention will be given to recruiting parents of children in Title 1 on the committee.

School-Parent Compact

The Staff pledge to:

1. Provide a safe and supportive environment for children to learn
2. Provide high quality curriculum tied to the State's student performance standards
3. Provide qualified faculty and staff to ensure high-quality instruction and support
4. Strive to identify and address students' unique needs
5. Communicate regularly with parents on their students' progress and needs (in their native language)
6. Involve parents in decisions relating to the education of their children

Parents/Guardians pledge to:

1. Provide a safe and supportive environment for children to grow and develop
2. Send students to school on time and prepared to learn. Examples of this include encouraging students to eat breakfast and ensuring students get sufficient sleep each night.
3. Encourage student learning by monitoring student's homework, providing a study area, and necessary materials
4. Visit school often and participate in school activities – including open house, parent-teacher conferences, parent education programs, and other related activities
5. Collaborate with classroom teachers to ensure the success of students
6. Adhere to school rules and encourage students to follow rules
7. Take a stand against alcohol, drug abuse and violence

Students pledge to:

1. Be active participants in their own learning (participate in class)
2. Be responsible learners (bring your supplies and work to class)
3. Complete all classwork and homework (do your work in class and your homework at home)
4. Follow school rules (follow the rules at school)
5. Attend school regularly (come to school if you are not sick)
6. Promote school safety (be safe at school and school activities)

Matching Programs to the Needs of the Community

Each year, the campus will assess the needs of parents and children in this community, through a variety of measures so that the Title 1 program will be tailored to meeting those needs. Workshops and other programs will be available (some for parents, some for parents and children) to match the expressed needs. Parents will be notified about these opportunities. Parents may call the school office at any time to express an interest in a particular sort of workshop or to make suggestions.

Staff/Parent Communications

Information will be sent home with children. Phone calls, conferences, and home visits will be made as needed. Parents are encouraged to take the initiative in calling their child's teacher when they are concerned about a problem. They may also call the school office and ask for a translator for conferences. Notices are provided in English and Spanish. Staff is trained on how to improve home-school communication; some parents may be asked to attend these training sessions.

Annual Meeting for Title 1 Parents

Parents will be given information about Title 1 guidelines at the annual fall meeting. Parents may volunteer to serve on the Campus Improvement Committee, and/or the Title 1 Parental Involvement Advisory Committee.

The meeting will be conducted at a time convenient for parents and a translator will be available. Meetings will be publicized so that as many parents as possible will attend.

Evaluation

A campus-wide Title 1 Advisory Committee will be involved in the process of school review and improvement. Parents of children in the Title 1 program will be part of this group. The goal of a campus-wide Title 1 Advisory Committee is to increase involvement in the process of Title 1 evaluation.

Parents will be asked for their input in the annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Title 1 parental involvement program. The evaluation will include an assessment of how much parental involvement is increasing and what barriers to parental participation still need to be overcome. The campus will revise its Parental Involvement Policy on the basis of this annual review.

The policy will be coordinated by the Title 1 parent involvement coordinators and administrators.