

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT POLICY FOR CORA THOMAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LAMAR CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

This Parent Involvement Policy has been developed to describe how Cora Thomas Elementary School involves parents in the development of the Parent Engagement Policy and the School/Parent Compact. These two documents are to aid parents in helping their children achieve in school. It also ensures that parents with limited English proficiency or disabilities can participate in their students' education. The policy and the compact were developed with the assistance and approval of the parents of students participating in the Title I program, as well as Site-Based Decision-Making Team.

If students are to be successful, their parents or guardians must be actively involved in their education.

The Parent Engagement Policy

Each year parents of all students who participate in the Title I program are invited to an Annual Title I Parent meeting. At the meeting, the Title I law, its requirements, and the rights and benefits to parents of students involved are discussed. The meeting also includes discussion of how parents can be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including making contributions to the parental engagement policy and the School/Parent Compact. Cora Thomas Elementary School assists the parents of Title I students in participating in these meetings. Home visits are provided as needed. Other campus opportunities/activities are: PTO meetings/activities, Curriculum Night, Veteran Day Program, Holiday Program, 5th Grade Celebration, Kinder Program, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) Nights, our dad's group: POP (Protecting our Pride), Open House, School/Parent Compact/Report card conferences, Meet The Teacher for Pre-K - 5, and the meetings of the Site-Based Decision-Making Team. Parents are also provided opportunities to visit with the school counselor about school issues. Translators are available for Spanish speaking parents.

At the annual Title I Parent meeting or at other times throughout the year, information is distributed to Title I parents about programs and services offered by the school, including before and after-school tutoring, in-school tutorials, counseling, as well as our different clubs. The school curriculum, expectations for the students, and measurement of student performance is also discussed. Performance measurements of each individual child and also of our school as a whole on the state tests, the STAAR, Universal screeners (MAP), GRA, etc. are discussed. Other measures of performance are also discussed on such assessments as the CogAT, a cognitive abilities test.

Participation and involvement of all parents is important. Information related to student achievement, school performance, school and parent programs, meetings, and other opportunities for participation is sent home in the home language whenever possible. Some of the standard information sent home in Spanish includes report cards, when the parents check Spanish speaking in the Skyward system. We ensure the ability of parents

with disabilities to participate by providing handicapped access to all classrooms and buildings.

Cora Thomas Elementary School holds regular PTO and Site-Based Decision-Making Team meetings to provide opportunities for parents to make suggestions, to respond to parent suggestions and input, to share experiences with other parents, and to participate in decisions concerning school procedures, school rules, and services offered.

The School/Parent Compact

The School/Parent Compact was developed jointly by Cora Thomas Elementary School staff and parents of participating Title I students. The compact explains how parents, school staff, and the individual student will share joint responsibility for each student's academic success. The School/Parent Compact is reviewed with each parent at the report card conference the first nine weeks.

Date Updated: August 30, 2023

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