

# Port Arthur Independent School District Parental Involvement Policy

2016-2017  
Revised  
4801 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Port Arthur, TX 77642  
409-989-6291

## What is Parental Involvement?

According to section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (Parental Involvement). [Section 9101(32), ESEA, parental involvement] is the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- (B) That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- (C) That 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, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA.



## About the Parental Involvement Policy

In an effort to improve student achievement in the Port Arthur Independent School District (PAISD), the district has developed this plan which is aligned with the expectations of Section 1118 of the ESEA as well as one of PAISD's district goals which is "To increase and improve community and parental involvement and build positive perceptions and relationships among staff, Board, and community in support of students and their learning." In order for PAISD students to reach their educational, social and emotional goals, these plans will detail how the district will include parents and the many opportunities they will have to be equipped to assist their children in reaching their goals.

The research is clear that when parents are involved, students do better in school and graduate at a much higher rate than those whose parents are not involved.

Title I, Part A solicits needed parental involvement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents in their children's education. As detailed in Section 1118, the PAISD will work with its Title I schools to assist with the required school-level parental involvement policies to make sure they meet the requirements of Section 1118 (b) and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1118 (d) of the ESEA.

## Jointly Developed

During a District-wide Parent meeting in May, all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parental involvement policy for the 2016-2017 school year. The district posted an announcement on the school district website, on Facebook and in the local Port Arthur news inviting parents to the meeting. Additionally, Title I schools used its Parent Advisory Council to review the district parental involvement policy before the end of the school year.

Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time on the school district Web site or by submitting written comments to your child's school. All feedback received was included with the policy for this school year.

This district parental involvement policy is posted on district and school Web sites, Facebook distributed during parent meetings and made available in the schools and in the district parent involvement office.



## Strengthening Our School

This year, the district parent involvement coordinator (PIC) will provide assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure parental involvement requirements are being satisfied and that parent engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district and the PIC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district and the PIC will hold meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' principals and school PICs to review family engagement plans and activities. Additionally, the district will convene a meeting in May for principals and PICs to review parental involvement requirements and plan opportunities for parental involvement activities and meetings for the remainder of the school year.

## Reservation of Funds

The PAISD will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives to carry out the parental involvement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1118 of the ESEA. Furthermore, the PAISD will distribute 95 percent of the amount reserved to all Title I schools to support their local-level parental involvement programs and activities. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate parental involvement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

Each Title I school will host an annual School Improvement Meeting in May for parents to provide suggestions how these parental involvement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. Comment cards and minutes from these meetings will be reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the parental involvement plan.



# Opportunities for Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to attend two meeting opportunities, one December 14<sup>th</sup> and the other on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.

## District Parent Meeting ~ May 3, 2017

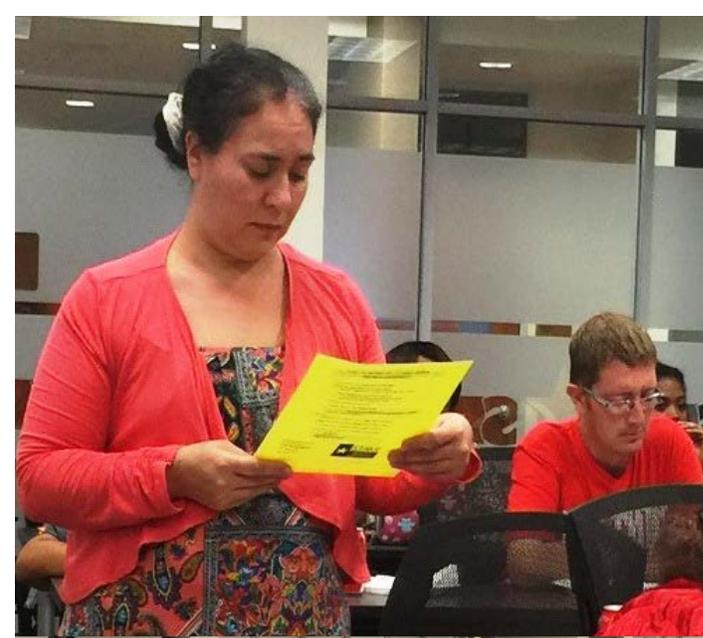
All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the PAISD as well as review and provide input into the district parental involvement policy and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan for the 2017-18 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be mailed to parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school district Web site, Facebook and Twitter.

## School Improvement Meetings ~ Each Title I school

will host a meeting for parents to participate in roundtable discussions to review the school wide plan, the school's parental involvement policies as well as provide input on the parental involvement budget and parental involvement programs. Each Title I school will send a letter home to parents notifying them about the date and time of the meeting. Information regarding the School Improvement Meeting will also be made available on the school Web sites.

Parent input on the use of Title I funds to support parental involvement programs may also be provided through the annual district survey. The survey will contain questions related to the parental involvement budget as well as a section for parents to provide their comments.

Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit <http://www.paisd.org/domain/44> to review the meetings documents, minutes and access other parental involvement information from the PAISD Web site.



# Building School and Parent Capacity and Family Engagement

The following districtwide activities and strategies will be used to strengthen parent involvement in PAISD:

The PAISD will work with the district and through its Title I schools to provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to their student's learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I program. The PAISD will provide workshops for parents to gain knowledge about the State's achievement standards, as well as the required assessments for Texas students including alternative forms of assessment.

The first meeting will be held October 27, 2016. During this session, parents will be shared information concerning the importance of parent involvement, Homeless updates, House Bill 2398 passed by the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature updates and literacy opportunities provided by the Port Arthur Public Library including services for immigrants. The meeting will be posted on the district Web site, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, newspaper, marquees and shared through each Title I school's newsletter.

The PAISD will also provide a webpage on the district Web site that will contain resources and materials, including parent guides, study guides, and practice assessments, to help parents work with their children at home. Copies of these materials will be made available at all Title I schools for those families who may have limited internet access, including copies in Spanish. To assist parents with understanding the online student information system and other digital educational resources, the PAISD technology specialists will partner with Title I schools to share information as requested by parents and also at the PAISD's yearly One Stop Registration, which was last held at Memorial High School on July 6-7, 2016, and will be held in July of 2017.

The PAISD will coordinate and integrate the district's parental involvement programs with PTA. It will also coordinate with the Head Start program by inviting faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on parent engagement activities. The PAISD will also coordinate with these programs to ensure that parents are informed about available resources.

To ensure that information related to district, school, and parent programs, meetings, and activities is available to all parents in an understandable and uniform format, each Title I school will send home a districtwide calendar of events with information for parents at the beginning of the year. Schools will provide monthly parent reports to central office documenting compliance of campus parent involvement. Parent notifications and resources will be sent home in parents' native language, where applicable, and interpreters will be available at parent events and meetings. Information posted on the district Web site will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize the school Web sites, district app, Facebook and other social media, local news media, district and school marquees, and other school message systems to post information for parents.

During each PAISD leadership training meeting during the school year, principals will be given specific strategies to increase parent engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. Principals will be asked to share these strategies with their faculty and staff of Title I schools. The district parent involvement coordinator will also provide opportunities for visits to each Title I school to review and discuss parental involvement requirements and initiatives. The PAISD will host a training for appropriate school staff and faculty that will focus on creating welcoming environments and improving two-way communication with families.

The PAISD has established a districtwide Parent Advisory Council comprised of parent representatives from each Title I school's Parent Advisory Council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs. Community leaders and business partners will be invited to serve on this council. The district will also encourage collaboration and participation with community partners by posting recordings of council and other district meetings on the Web site and increase participation by utilizing video conferencing technology and Facebook Live broadcasting to accommodate the schedules of these valuable partners.

# Parental Involvement Evaluation

Each year, the PAISD will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy and the parental involvement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey.

Beginning in April, each Title I school will send home a survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parental involvement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the district and school Web sites for parents to complete. In addition to the

annual survey, each Title I school will also have a meeting to facilitate group discussions to discuss the needs to parents of children eligible to receive Title I services to design strategies for more effective parental involvement.

The PAISD will use the findings from the school meetings and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective parental involvement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parental involvement policies.

## Accessibility

In carrying out the parental involvement requirements established by Section of the ESEA, the district parent involvement coordinator will communicate and collaborate with PAISD Bilingual Department and Special Education to ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children including providing information and school reports in a language parents can understand.



### *For all Parents*

**2016-2017 Title 1  
District-wide Parent  
Meetings/Working Lunch**

Meetings will be held at the  
Arreader P. Guidry PAISD  
Administrative Building  
4801 9th Avenue  
Port Arthur, TX 77642  
11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

To be more inclusive, two of the meetings are in coordination with the PTA meetings. They are held at the same place and the times are 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

## Mark Your Calendars

**October 27, 2016**

Parent Involvement, Testing,  
Homeless Updates,  
The 84th Texas Legislature HB 2398  
(Truancy) updates, Literacy  
opportunities including services for  
immigrants

**December 14, 2016**

(In coordination with PTA)  
Title 1 and Federal Updates

**February 5, 2017**

STAAR BLITZ of STRATEGIES

**May 3, 2017**

(In coordination with PTA)  
Title 1 and Policy Updates/Evaluation/  
Survey

**June 15, 2017**

Summer Resources and Opportunities



### *For Schools*

Open House held at the beginning of  
schools for all Title 1 Schools

Each school has scheduled  
parent meetings that can be  
found on the school or district  
parent website.

Each Title 1 school will have  
a meeting inviting parents to  
evaluate their parent policy.



## Jointly Developed

This districtwide parental involvement policy has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school and district personnel at the annual District Parent meeting.

This policy was adopted by the Port Arthur Independent School District Parent Advisory Council on May 22, 2016 and will be in effect for the 2016-2017 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children.