

Shepherd ISD

District Parental and Family Engagement Policy

2018-19



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Shepherd ISD believes every child should have the opportunity to attain his/her full potential. Shepherd ISD will work together to establish effective programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its campuses with Title I, Part A programs. The district will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children. Parent information and school reports will be provided in an understandable and uniform format, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

Shepherd ISD will use the website and Facebook to communicate to parents pertinent information to enhance the home to school partnership. Those students that need extra assistance will have access to interventions as needed to help them succeed.

Shepherd ISD will make every effort to include parents in the development, evaluation, and revision of the Title I, Part A Program and the Parental Involvement Policy. The school-parent compact at each Title I, Part A campus will describe the responsibilities of key stakeholders and useful channels of communication. The goal of our parental involvement program throughout the district is to implement effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and campus performance.

DEVELOPING THE POLICY/INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS

The district will work with a District Advisory Committee, which will be formed consisting of parents, community members, teachers and staff, and principals or administrators to develop/revise, the Shepherd ISD Parental Involvement Policy. The need for volunteers to serve on this committee will be publicized via letter/email and then volunteers will be selected from campus nominations. The parent volunteers will represent the diversity of the student population, and one or more parents on the advisory committee will have children participating in the Title I program. The advisory committee will convene at a time and place convenient to all its members.

Additionally, Shepherd ISD will incorporate the District Parental Involvement Policy into its District Improvement Plan. The advisory committee will also provide input regarding the development and revision of the District Improvement Plan.

BUILDING CAPACITY

Shepherd ISD values the partnership of the parents in their children's education. There are ways parents can make significant contributions to student success both at home and by volunteering at school. Student achievement is the result of an effective home-school-community partnership.

The district will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parent involvement through avenues such as:

- Providing assistance to parents in how to monitor a child's progress and how to work with educators to improve student achievement
- Providing materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve academic achievement.
- Providing training to teachers and school personnel with the assistance of parents to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and school.
- Providing information in a format and language the parents understand.

COORDINATION OF PROGRAMS

Shepherd ISD will develop a partnership with parents that have three and four-year-olds by hosting weekly Pirateer Meetings where parents learn reading strategies. The sessions assist the children with the transition to elementary school.

Annually Shepherd ISD will assess the needs of the parents and children in the school community using a variety of tools such as computerized or printed surveys and questionnaires. The findings will be used to revise the Title I program to meet the current needs. Training will be made available to address the needs of the school community. Parents will be notified about training opportunities via campus newsletters, messaging system, website, and local newspaper announcements.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The district will set aside at least 1% of its Title I funds for the purpose of parental involvement. Funds will be divided among each Title I campus and will be spent according to the Comprehensive Needs Assessment of which stakeholders were involved in planning. The campus principal will authorize the use of the funds designated for parental involvement.

EVALUATION

Shepherd ISD will work with its District Advisory Committee to evaluate the content and effectiveness of the Parental Involvement Program. Surveys, classroom observations, assessment data, and other resources will be used to determine the needs and develop revised strategies of student success. Parental input will be sought. Revisions to the Title I Program and the Parental Involvement Policy will be developed and agreed upon with parent input and will be communicated to the parents in the district or school.

Shepherd ISD will continually strive to remove any barriers that may limit parent and family participation such as, but not limited to, home language, communication of announcing Parental Involvement Events, and time scheduling of Parental Involvement Events.

The district will use the findings of the evaluation about its Parental Involvement Policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise if necessary its parental involvement policies.

DATE DISTRICT PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY

REVISED: August 2018

Shepherd ISD is committed to the success of students. The district will work together with parents to monitor the effectiveness of our Parental Involvement and Title I Programs. Administrators, principals, and other school staff will promote this policy as we seek active participation by our parents.