

SUNSET PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

Statement of Purpose

Sunset is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child in this school. To this end, we want to establish partnerships with parents and the community. Everyone gains if home and school work together to promote high achievement for our children. Neither home nor school can do the job alone. Parents play an extremely important role as the children's first teachers. Their support for their children and the school is critical to their children's success at every step along the way. Sunset shall ensure we educate teachers, pupil services personnel, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents/families, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between the parents and the school.

Goals for the children of Sunset will be available to all parents in the school, with the expectation that **all** students will work toward these goals. We recognize that some students may need the extra assistance available through the Title I program, as well as other programs to reach these goals. Sunset intends to include parents in all aspects of the school's Title I program. The goal is a school-home partnership that will encourage all students in the school to succeed. Sunset shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs with Pre-K programs.

Parent Involvement in Developing the Policy

Since Title I is a school-wide project at Sunset, the Sunset Campus Council will act as the advisory committee for developing our school's parental involvement policy. This committee is made up of parents, community members, business representatives, and school personnel.

Annual Meetings for Title I Parents

At the fall and spring annual meetings for parents which will be held at a Sunset PTO meeting, parents will be given information about Title I. They will be given copies of the school's current parental involvement policy and will be offered a chance to become involved in revising and updating the policy as needed. Parents may volunteer on the Campus Council. The meetings shall provide information to parents as to how they can get assistance in understanding such topics as the State's academic content standards and student academic achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, how to monitor a child's progress, and how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.

The meetings will be held twice for the convenience of parents – in the evening and again the following morning. Translation will be available. Written notices, telephone calls, and/or media attention will be directed at attracting as many parents as possible and to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand.

School-Parent Compacts

In accordance with Title I regulations, each Title I campus must develop a school-parent compact with the parents of students participating in the program. This compact will enable the school and parents to share the responsibility for student performance and success.

The compact must explain that students, parents, and staff will share responsibility for promoting student achievement. The Campus Council will be consulted in the design and implementation of the compact.

All parents of students participating in the Title I program will be given a copy of the compact detailing the responsibilities that teachers, parents, and students have in helping students accomplish their goals. Student responsibilities will vary by grade level.

Parent/student signatures will not be required; however, parents are encouraged to discuss the contents of the compact with their children.

Matching Parent Involvement Programs to the Needs of Our Community

The community will be consulted in the design, development, and implementation of the Title I program. Parent and student needs will be assessed through surveys and other measures targeted at creating a successful school environment.

Sunset will welcome and promote parental suggestions.

Staff/Parent Communications

Sunset shall provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy and technology. Parents will be welcomed through various avenues of communication throughout the school year. Schoolway, conferences, personal contacts, phone calls, and/or written notices will be utilized to establish and maintain an open line of communication. Parents are encouraged to take the initiative in calling their child(ren)'s teacher when they are concerned about a problem. They may also call the school office and ask for a translator. As much as possible, notices sent home will have the information in both English and Spanish. School personnel will practice positive, effective, home-school communications.

To become familiar with what each child is required to learn at school, parents can go to the Texas Education Agency website. Click on Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Search by grade level or subject matter to see an entire list of everything each grade level is required to teach.

Kindergarten, first grade, and second grade students are assessed by the teachers using an observation survey. In the spring, each of the students will also take a district benchmark test.

Third and fourth grade students are assessed by the teachers using mini-assessments (which are tests given over small sections of information), benchmark tests (which are tests given usually twice a year that are similar to the STAAR test), and the STAAR test. Third grade students take the STAAR reading and math tests. Fourth grade students take the STAAR writing, reading, and math tests.

Sunset also receives a report card each year that is based solely on STAAR scores. Parents will receive a copy of this report each year.

Evaluation

Sunset Campus Council will be involved in the process of school review and improvement. Parents of children in the Title I program will be part of this group. The aim will be to evaluate the school, collecting information in a variety of ways.

There will be an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Title I parental involvement program, and parents will be asked for their input. The evaluation will include an assessment of how much involvement is increasing and what barriers to parental participation still need to be overcome. The school will revise its parent involvement program on the basis of this annual review.

This commitment to family involvement has been approved by the Sunset Campus Council. The policy will be coordinated by Title I supervisory staff and teachers and promoted by the principal and other school staff.

Si usted necesita hablar con una traductora a lo que se refiere en esta carta, usted puede llamar al telefono numero 935-2157 de las 8:00 hasta las 8:30 de la mañana y tambien en la tarde, de la 2:40 hasta las 3:30 de lunes a viernes. Para hablar con una traductora pregunte por Mrs. Sena. Muchas Gracias!