School-Wide Parental Involvement Policy



**School:** Dr. William H. Brewster Elementary School **Principal:** Angela Askew

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**Goal:** Ensure that contents of policy are aligned with each state parent standard.

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| **Standard 1: Welcoming All Families:**Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class and school. |
| The purpose of the Brewster Elementary Title 1 program is to **ensure that all children have the opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach proficiency on challenging state academic standards and assessments** (Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 2001). As we strive to improve the academic achievement of our students, we realize that parents are a critical part of the equation for reaching high academic results. We strive to incorporate family and community into everyday school life. The involvement of the family is crucial to the success of the student. We encourage parents to become an active part in their child’s education. The school agrees to be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:*Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring that parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning; that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school; 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.*One way we encourage parents is through the **Parent Involvement Policy** and the **School- Parent Compact**. Both of these documents are available to the community and are developed with parental involvement. * We include these in the school policy handbook and on the school website.
* In addition, we review these documents with our parents at the fall annual meeting.
* The Parent Involvement Policy encourages active participation by all parent-school stakeholders.
* The School-Parent Compact shows how parents, students, and staff share the responsibility for improved student achievement and how we can help our students meet the standards required by the district and the state.
* The school will notify parents about the School Parental Involvement Policy in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practicable, distribute this policy to parents in a language the parents can understand.
* The school will work with the Title 1 Advisory Committee to annually update the Parental Involvement Policy to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.

Brewster Elementary School will take the following **actions** to involve parents in the joint development and joint agreement of its Parental Involvement Policy in an organized, ongoing, and timely way under section 1118(b) of the ESEA:* The administration ensures that the office staff greetings, signage at entrances, and other interaction with parents create a climate in which parents feel welcomed.
* Brewster Newsletters will be sent home monthly that include important academic information as well as dates for school activities, district information, and helpful hints.
* Meet the Teacher night is held during in August, at which time teachers will explain grade-level curriculum and classroom expectations.
* Annual Title 1 Meeting is held in September to inform parents about Title I and their rights under the ESEA. Flexible meeting times will be offered.
* Parents are provided the opportunity to conduct an annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the parental involvement policy.
* Parents are invited to participate in school improvement efforts (SIP) and to serve on various committees such as the Title 1 Advisory Committee.

Brewster Elementary School will build the **school’s and parent’s capacity** for strong parental involvement in order to ensure an effective partnership among the stakeholders involved in order to improve student academic achievement through the following items:* Parent training classes and informational sessions (Parent Chats) will be held on a regular basis.
* Title 1 newsletters will also be sent home monthly that includes important information parents can use to help ensure students’ academic success and build student character.
* A Parent Resource Center is available and accessible to parents that include a collection of parenting information, job board, and Internet access.
* Transition programs will be made for Kindergarten, 1st grade, and 5th grade parents.
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| **Standard 2: Communicating:** Families and school staff engage in regular, meaningful communication about student learning. |
| * Monthly calendars, communication folders, student agendas, and newsletters are used to relay current and upcoming events and provide tips for helping children with the curriculum.
* Report cards are sent home every nine weeks.
* Parents are encouraged to schedule time to volunteer in the classroom.
* Parent surveys are used to solicit suggestions on improving the school.
* Parents are contacted by phone regarding the positive and/or negative actions of their children.
* Parents are contacted by phone to relay school closings and other important notices.
* The school works with community based organizations, businesses, and pencil partners who want to be involved in parent activities.
* Parent conferences are provided as a means of providing information on student achievement and conduct.
* The school website provides valuable resources to enhance student achievement.
* The school will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities be sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.
* Brewster Elementary School will provide to parents of enrolled children a list of Grade Level Expectations in the curriculum.
* Brewster Elementary School will convene an annual meeting to inform parents of the following:
* The participation of their child’s school in Title I,
* The legal requirements of Title I,
* The rights of the parents to be involved,
* The school’s Title I action plan or school improvement plan.
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| **Standard 3: Supporting Student Success**Families and school staff continuously work together to support students’ learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively. |
| The following activities will be used to support student academic achievement:* Providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
* Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
* Training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
* Arranging school meetings at flexible times, and providing the family with information when participating students and parents are unable to attend conferences at school;
* Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
* Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parental involvement activities; and
* Providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under ESEA section 1118 as parents may request.
* A Title 1 annual meeting is held at the beginning of each year to inform parents about Title 1 and their rights under the ESEA.
* Conduct an annual meeting with parents for the purpose of discussing the school’s participation in Title 1 programs such as SES Choice, Free and Reduced Lunch, Migrant Education, Distinguished Schools, etc. and the rights of parents to be involved in those programs.
* The school will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with English Language Learners Program, Migrant Education Program, and Special Education
* Curriculum Night and Back to School programs will be conducted at the beginning of school year to enhance additional parental support for student achievement.
* Parents will be given timely and updated information on academic achievement through newsletters, website, letters, etc.
* Provide technical assistance and coordination with Millington Elementary to support the school in establishing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
* Provide multiple opportunities for parents to provide input for developing and revising polices relating to parent involvement, including the use of school and district level Parent Involvement funds, and on policies at the school level. Parents will also be asked to share suggestions for improving target participation in student learning. Formal parent complaints concerning school plans will be submitted to the school district when the school makes the plan available publicly.
* Conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the school parent involvement policy and the district parent involvement policy, including identification of barriers to greater participation by parents of diverse backgrounds. Such findings will be used to design more effective strategies for parent involvement.
* Provide the opportunity for parents to attend the annual Parent Engagement Summit each year that fosters a stronger school-home partnership.
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| **Standard 4: Speaking Up for Every Child:**Families are informed and enabled to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success. |
| * All parents have access to many types and levels of involvement, with no person excluded based on race, religion, creed, gender, socio-economic status, physical impairment or age.
* Offer a flexible number of meetings in order to include as many parents as possible, including mornings, evenings, and/or weekends.
* Provide multiple opportunities for parents to voice concerns and make suggestions related to the school and district improvement plan strategies. The school and district for needed improvements will consider this input. Opportunities that can be provided include monthly parent advisory council meetings, daily access to school personnel identified for parent concerns, PTA/PTO meetings, school improvement committee meetings, school suggestion boxes and school newsletters.
* Provide reasonable support for parent involvement activities such as the provision of speakers, translators, transportation, childcare, service hotlines, phone call-outs, and parent resource centers.
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| **Standard 5: Sharing Power:**Families and school staff are equal partners with equal representation in decisions that affect students and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs. |
| * Parents are encouraged to schedule time to volunteer in the classroom.
* Parent surveys are used to solicit suggestions on improving the school.
* Conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the school parent involvement policy and the district parent involvement policy, including identification of barriers to greater participation by parents of diverse backgrounds. Such findings will be used to design more effective strategies for parent involvement.
* Provide technical assistance and coordination with schools to support the schools in establishing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

**Standard 6: Collaborating with Community:****Families and school staff work together with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.** |
| * Jointly develop, with parents, a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, school staff and students will share responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The following information will be included:

• How the school provides high quality curriculum and instruction.• How the parent will support their student’s learning at home and at school with recommendations such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, TV watching, positive use of extracurricular time, volunteering, observation in the classroom and involvement in educational decisions concerning their children.* The importance of meaningful, two-way on-going communication between teachers and parents through meetings, phone calls, conferences, technology, and progress reports.
* The school works with community based organizations, businesses, and pencil partners who want to be involved in parent activities.
* Provide collaborative training sessions for staff and parents to develop mutual appreciation and a better understanding of the role all of us play in the development of our students. This training will include how to communicate with and work effectively with parents as partners and will consist of discussions “best practices’” among school staff, administrators and community leaders.

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