

Valley Ranch Elementary

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2023-2024



MISSION STATEMENT: Valley Ranch Elementary is dedicated to ensuring high levels of learning for ALL students

VISION: Our desire is to develop a love for learning as all students strive to become responsible Texans.

CORE VALUES

Through the expectation of high standards of personal performance, our school will provide a positive, supportive, and challenging environment with a core curriculum designed to meet the individual needs of all students.

BELIEFS

We believe learning involves a strong partnership between the students, school staff, and parents. Parent and family engagement is a key part of the success of our students. Research studies consistently show that high student achievement and self-esteem are closely related to positive parental participation in education. We encourage our parents to be involved in many ways and at all levels.

Title I regulations require that each school served under Title I jointly develop with and distribute to parents of participating children, a written parent and family engagement policy agreed on by the parents that describe the requirements outlined in Title I law.

A. POLICY INVOLVEMENT

1. **Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under this part and to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved.**

An annual parent meeting will be held at the beginning of each school year in order to

review the parent Title I School requirements, Parent and Family Engagement Policy, and School-Parent Compact. The principal will update the parents on the school's rating and plans for improvement.

2. **Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement.**

Parents are invited to numerous meetings throughout the year, offered at different times throughout the day. Valley Ranch Elementary recruits parents for our Site Based Committee during registration, family nights, PTO events, and open houses. We encourage all parents to get involved and as many as possible to serve on the decision-making committee. At the beginning of the school year, we have a Meet the Teacher Night to allow parents to see the classrooms and visit with the teacher. In addition, parents or teachers may schedule a parent-teacher conference throughout the school year so that they may stay up to date with their student's academic and behavioral progress. Parents are also encouraged to become NCISD volunteers so that they may volunteer in their child's classrooms.

3. **Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under this part, including planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy.**

Our school invites parents to participate in review and revision meetings to discuss and examine our Campus Improvement Plan and Parent and Family Engagement Policy throughout the school year. The Site Base Committee will also be involved in this planning, review and improvement process. We will have meetings throughout the school year for parents and Site Base Committee members to participate in the continuous school improvement process.

4. **Provide parents of participating children timely information about programs under this part; descriptions and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet; and if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any suggestions as soon as practically possible.**

Each student will be taught the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for their appropriate grade level according to New Caney ISD's scope and sequence. Our campus uses a variety of curriculum resources, including, but not limited to: Origo, Benchmark phonics, Haggerty Phonemic Awareness, Science of Teaching Reading, Social Studies Weekly, STEMscopes, etc. Teachers will send home student work for the parents to review and ask questions about (if needed). The campus counselor is also available to assist families with campus or community resources to meet the needs of their student's social-emotional needs. Our school also shares state reports, family-friendly student reports explaining their student's individual STAAR performance, campus and district ratings, academic expectations, assessment results, grading guidelines, school schedules,

classroom schedules and behavior expectations through a variety of communicative techniques:

- Valley Ranch Elementary School Website including the Teacher Pages
- Social Media: School Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter
- Canvas, Remind, and Email
- Phone Calls including call-outs through School Messenger System
- Family and Teacher Conferences offered before, during, and after school
- Title I Meetings
- Monthly School Calendar sent home
- Events for Families to Attend: Dual Family Nights, Fall and Spring Academic Nights, Student Award Ceremonies, Field Day, Grandparents Day, Spirit Nights, etc.
- Campus and District Parent Handbook
- Thursday Folders that may include individual notes (if needed)
- Report Cards and Progress Reports, including Skyward Gradebook, an electronic database with up-to-date information about grades, attendance, and discipline.
- MTSS, 504, and ARD Meetings
- School Marquee and Yard Signs
- Site-Based Planning Meetings

B. SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIGH STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

As a component of the school-level parent and family engagement policy, each school shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under this part a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement.

Valley Ranch Elementary believes strongly that each student's education is the responsibility of the teacher, parents, and child together. For this reason, we utilize a Parent Teacher Compact that has been developed by a team of teachers, parents, and stakeholders. This compact is reviewed at the beginning of each year and is utilized throughout the year to motivate students and parents to become more involved in the educational process and to let parents know they are a partner in their child's education. This compact is shared with the parents through Thursday folders and shared electronically.

C. BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, each school and local educational agency assisted under this part shall:

- 1. Provide assistance to the parents of children served by the school or local educational agency, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the state's academic content standards and state student academic achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, the requirements of this part, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children;**
Our school will provide information and training to our parents in understanding the state's student academic standards in all content areas through family academic nights, as well as parent-teacher conferences.

2. Shall provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement;

Our school will host family nights that work with parents on activities they can do at home in order to support their child's literacy development and technology use. We have programs like Ready Rosie and Raz Kids, and Beanstack that can be accessed at home for those that have the technology. We have a Reading Family Night for the parents to attend in order to learn ways to help their students at home. Our Media Specialist communicates with parents over social media and at the school in order to assist them with accessing programs and website navigation.

3. Educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, on the value and utility of contributions of parents, 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 parents and the school;

Parent concerns, suggestions, and comments are gathered in the form of parent surveys and from the families through parent conferences (in person or by phone), email, and Remind. Input from staff, students, family, community, and business members will also be gathered at a review meeting hosted throughout the school year. This transparent and informative process followed by the Administrative Team and teachers will strengthen the tie between school and home for the purpose of increasing student achievement.

4. Ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents can understand.

Valley Ranch Elementary will send home school-wide correspondence in English and Spanish. We have translators available to assist with parent communication when needed.

D. ACCESSIBILITY

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of this part, districts, and schools, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents with children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents can understand.

All students and parents are considered to be an important part of our learning community. Regardless of English proficiency or disability, all parents are encouraged to be involved in their child's school environment. For this reason, if there is a special need identified that would help a parent understand the educational process of their child, assistance will be provided. Examples of support include:

- Interpreted school documents in a parent's primary language.
- Having an interpreter on hand to translate important information school-wide meetings and events.
- An interpreter to provide translation in parent/teacher conferences.