

Shields Elementary Title I Parental Involvement Policy

Statement of Purpose

D. T. Shields Elementary is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child on our campus. To this end, we want to establish partnerships with parents and the community. Everyone gains if school and home 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.

Goals for the children of D. T. Shields Elementary are available to all parents, 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. D. T. Shields Elementary intends to include parents in all aspects of the campus Title I program. The goal is a school-home partnership that will encourage all students on the campus to succeed.

Parent Involvement in Developing the Policy

Since Title I is school wide at this campus, the Site Based Committee will act as the advisory committee for developing our campus 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, parents will be given information about Title I. They will be given copies of the campus'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 to assist teachers and staff members as well.

Written notices, telephone calls and/or electronic media announcements will be directed at attracting as many parents as possible.

School-Parent Compacts

In accordance with Title I regulations, our 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 access to a copy of the compact detailing the responsibilities that teachers, parents and students have in helping students accomplish their goals. Students' responsibilities will vary by grade level.

Parents are encouraged to discuss the contents of the compact with their children.

Matching Parent Involvement Programs to the Needs of Our Students

Parent and student needs will be assessed through surveys and other measures targeted at creating a successful school environment.

D. T. Shields Elementary will welcome and promote parental suggestions. Parents are encouraged to speak with the office staff, the principal, and other staff members as appropriate.

Volunteer Opportunities

Parents may volunteer at D. T. Shields Elementary by contacting the office staff, the principal, classroom teachers, or the WatchDog father's organization. In addition, the PTA offers opportunities that benefit the entire campus. Volunteers can assist with projects, classroom enrichment activities, book fairs, fund raisers, safety programs, and many other activities.

Staff/Parent Communications

Parents will be welcomed through various avenues of communication throughout the school year. Newsletters, electronic media, conferences, daily planners, 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 and customer care practices.

Title I items are located on the campus website in a parent Title I folder, located by clicking the Title I button.

Evaluation

Parents of children in the Title I program will be given an opportunity to evaluate the program each year.

Included will be an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Title I parental involvement program. The evaluation will include an assessment of how much involvement is increasing and what barriers to parental participation still need to be overcome. The campus will revise its parent involvement on the basis of this annual review.

The policy will be coordinated by the principal and teachers throughout the campus.