

Seminole ISD

Title I Parental Involvement Policy

Statement of Purpose

Seminole ISD is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child in this district. To this end, we want to establish partnerships with parents and with the community. Everyone gains if school and home work together to promote high achievement by our children. Neither home nor school can do the job alone. Parents play an extremely important role as children's first teachers. Their support for their children and for the school is critical to their children's success at every step along the way.

Campus goals for the children of Seminole ISD will be distributed to all parents in the district, with the expectation that all students will work toward these goals. Seminole ISD intends to include parents in all aspects of the district's Title I program. The goal is a school-home partnership that will help all students in the district to succeed.

Parental Involvement in Developing the Policy

An Advisory Committee consisting of 5 parents, 2 teachers, and 2 administrators met to develop our school district's Parental Involvement Policy. Our Advisory Committee was chosen from volunteers in our community (after appropriate publicity about the need for volunteers).

Annual Meeting for Title I Parents (to be held in each school)

At the annual meeting for parents, parents will be given information about the Title I guidelines.

Translation (from English to both German and Spanish) will be available. Parents will be notified about the meeting times by the Parental Involvement Coordinator, in the newspaper, on the district web site, and on Channel 16 so that as many parents as possible will attend.

School-Parent Compact

According to the Title I regulations, each school must share responsibility with parents for high student performance by developing a school-parent-student compact jointly with the parents of children participating in the program. These compacts must outline how parents, staff, and students will share responsibility for promoting high student achievement. Student responsibilities may vary by grade level.

Parents will receive the compact from their child's school with a checklist of responsibilities that teachers, parents, and students will each have for helping students achieve their goals. Parents are urged to discuss the compact with their children, before signing it and having their children sign.

Both the Parental Involvement Policy and the School-Parent Compact are reviewed each year by the District Educational Improvement Committee (DEIC).

Types of Parental Involvement

There are many ways in which parents can become involved with their children's education. This school district values both the at-home contributions and those which take place at school and in the community. Reading to children at home and talking with them at a family meal are as important as volunteering at school and serving on advisory committees. Many types of parental involvement are needed in a school-home-community partnership that will help all our children to succeed.

Matching Programs to the Needs of Our Community

Each year, the school district will assess the needs of parents and children in this community, through a variety of measures — including questionnaires sent home to parents — so that the Title I program will be tailored to meeting those needs. Workshops and other programs will be available to match the expressed needs. Parents will be notified about these opportunities through the individual schools. Parents may call the district office or their child's campus office at any time to express an interest in a particular sort of workshop or to make suggestions.

Staff-Parent Communication

Communication with parents will include campus calendar notices, phone calls, conferences, and home visits as needed. Parents are encouraged to take the initiative in calling their child's teacher when they are concerned about a problem. They may also call the school office and ask for a translator for conferences. As much as possible, notices sent home will have English on one side and Spanish and German on the other.

Evaluation

A district-wide Title I Advisory Committee 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 schools in this district, collecting information in a variety of ways, including visits to the schools and observation of classes.

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 parental involvement is increasing and what barriers to parental participation still need to be overcome. The school district will revise its Parental Involvement Policy on the basis of this annual review.

This commitment to family involvement has been reviewed by all building principals. The policy will be coordinated by Title I supervisory staff and teachers throughout the district and promoted by building principals and other school staff.