

FARWELL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

PROGRAM AND GUIDELINES

FARWELL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Parent Involvement Policy

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Farwell ISD is committed to the goal that each student will have the opportunity to enrich to the fullest his\her potential for mental, physical, social and emotional development in order that each student may grow in Wisdom, Stature, and in Favor with God and Man. A positive link between home and school will create the most conducive learning condition for every child. These open communication lines will expand and enhance learning opportunities for everyone involved.

The goal of parent involvement is to provide opportunities, training and information for parents that will help them assume a more meaningful role in improving student achievement and increase their effectiveness when participating in the planning, design, implementation and evaluation of school programs, i.e. Title I programs.

TITLE I AND THE LAW

The purpose of Title I is to improve the programs of Farwell Elementary, Junior High and High School and to provide opportunities for children to acquire the knowledge and skills contained in the state content standards (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills – TEKS) and to meet state performance standards (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills – TAKS). The most recent law that affects Title I is the No Child Left Behind Act (Public Law 107-110). The law requires:

- That school districts have a written policy regarding parental involvement.
- That parents be involved in the design, operation and evaluation of Title 1.
- That parents be consulted about home/school activities and be trained to help their children.
- That whenever possible, activities should be presented in the language spoken by the majority of the Title I parents.

Districts receiving Title I funds must implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in the Title I program. A written parent involvement policy must be developed and agreed upon jointly with parents and distributed to parents. Parents of Farwell ISD students have the opportunity to view the policy on-line through the schools web page (www.farwellschools.org) or receive a hard copy when requested.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN DEVELOPING THE POLICY

Parents, members of the community, and school staff will meet to discuss the design and implementation of the Parent Involvement Policy. Farwell ISD will actively recruit participation through various avenues of publicity. Participation will hopefully include a diverse parent population. Meetings will be planned at convenient times and locations

for all concerned parties. Parents and students needs will be assessed through questionnaires and parental suggestions as well as a variety of other measures targeted at creating a successful school environment.

MEETINGS FOR TITLE I PARENTS

Farwell ISD will hold a fall and spring meeting for parents during each school year. Parents will be informed of new Title I guidelines and the variations from the previous year's program. The meeting will be held at a convenient time and location. Language translation and childcare will be provided to ensure parent participation and attendance. Written notices and media attention will all be directed at attracting as many parents as possible.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITES

The district will support many varied ways of parental involvement as it strives to develop and maintain an optimum learning environment for all students. At each campus parents may contribute through volunteer programs at school as well as creating a supportive home atmosphere. The community may also participate through an array of activities that promote student success. District wide activities include:

- Migrant/Title I meetings
- District Improvement Committee
- Campus Improvement Committee
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Field Trips
- Award Assemblies
- Honors/Sports Banquets
- Texas Public School Week
- CATCH/Band Program/ Art Show
- Athletic/Band/FFA Booster Club

SCHOOL PARENT COMPACTS

In accordance with Title I regulations, each school must develop a parent-student compact with the parents of students participating in the program. This compact will enable the school and parents to share responsibility for student performance and success. Members of the school's Campus Improvement Committee will be consulted in the design and implementation of the compact. All parents will be given a copy of the compact detailing the responsibilities that teachers, parents, and students have in helping students accomplish their goals. Student's responsibilities will vary by grade level. Parent, Student and Teacher will sign the compact at the elementary and junior high level.

STAFF/PARENT COMMUNICATION

Parents are welcomed through various avenues of communication throughout the school year. Newsletters, conferences, personal contacts and written notices will be utilized to establish and maintain an open line of communication. Staff members are encouraged to keep in close contact with parents not only in situations where there is an academic or behavior concern, but also when good things are going on in the classroom. Parents are encouraged to contact the school and/or their child's teachers if they have any questions or concerns about the instructional program.

EVALUATION OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

The DEIC and campus site-based committees will annually review and evaluate all aspects of the parent involvement program. Parents will be questioned about the effectiveness of the program and offer suggestions for improvement. The district will revise its Parent Involvement Policy based on the results of an annual review.