



Somerville ISD

Parent and Family Engagement Plan

Somerville Independent School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- Somerville ISD will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the engagement of parents and families in all schools with Title I, Part A Programs, consistent with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents.
- Somerville ISD will work with schools to ensure that the required school-level Parent and Family Engagement plans meet the requirements of the ESEA, and each includes a School-Parent Compact.
- Somerville ISD will incorporate this plan into its District Improvement Plan.
- In carrying out Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, Somerville ISD and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents and families with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities and parents of migratory children. Somerville ISD will provide information and required school reports in an understandable and uniform format in a language parents understand.
- If the District Improvement Plan for Title I, Part A is not satisfactory to parents, Somerville ISD will include any parent comments when the plan is submitted to the Texas Education Agency.
- Somerville ISD will involve the families of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement are spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent goes directly to the schools.
- Somerville ISD will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance and other support to Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance (A) Support Instructional Specialists; (B) Professional development provided to Title I Intervention Teachers; (C) Title I Collaborative Meetings.

In Somerville ISD, parent and family engagement means regular, two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, ensuring that (A) families play an integral role in their child's learning; (B) families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; (C) families 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; (D) the carrying out of other activities.

Mission Statement

Somerville Independent School District will provide a safe educational environment that fosters academic achievement, post-secondary success, and ensures each student graduates from high school both college and career ready with the ability to become responsible, productive, and contributing citizens in a diverse world.

Statement of Purpose

Somerville ISD recognizes that partnering with parents and families is an essential component of the educational process. The District values families and acknowledges that they play an extremely important role in their child's education. Somerville ISD encourages parents and families to work in partnership with school staff to help students achieve at the highest levels. For this to be accomplished, it is essential that they stay informed about their child's academic progress.

Campus Parent and Family Engagement Plans

All school activities will be given proper consideration to the involvement of families. Each school has a Campus Improvement Planning (CIP) Committee consisting of parents, teachers, administrators, community members and other school staff. The committee will meet annually to update the Campus Parent and Family Engagement Plan. The goal is to have parents play a vital role in decision making regarding the Title I program.

School Parent Compacts

Each school must share responsibility with families for high student academic performance by developing a school parent compact. This compact identifies how families, staff and students will share responsibility for improving student academic achievement. Parents on each school's CIP will be involved in designing the compacts. Families will receive the compact which lists the responsibilities that teachers, parents and students will have for helping students achieve their goals. Parents and teachers are strongly urged to discuss the compact during conferences and with the students.

Opportunities for Parental Involvement

There are many ways in which parents can become involved with their children's education. Somerville ISD values both at-home contributions and those which take place at school and in the community. Many types of family engagement are needed in a school-home partnership to ensure that all children succeed. Each Title I campus is responsible for creating meaningful ways for families to be involved in their child's education. Some opportunities include Reading Night, Campus Improvement Committees, District Title I Parent Teacher Committee, Watch D.O.G.S and other school-based groups.

Parent/Staff Communication

Communication with families may include a Title I Newsletter distributed throughout the year. School notices and activity packets are sent home with students. Phone calls, conferences and home visits are scheduled as needed. Parents are encouraged to take the initiative to contact their child's teacher to monitor progress as well as when they have a concern. Parents may request a translator for conferences. As much as possible, notices will be sent home in a language parents understand. School staff will also receive training on the importance of parental involvement and tips for communicating with parents.

Parent Assistance

Somerville ISD will, with the assistance of Title I schools, aid parents in understanding topics such as academic content standards, state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments, how to monitor progress and how to work with educators. Opportunities for assistance will include district and campus Title I meetings, parent/teacher conferences, campus parent education sessions and campus parent and family engagement activities.

Annual School Orientation Meeting

Title I campuses will host an annual meeting for parents where information about Title I guidelines will be distributed. Parents are given copies of the current Parental Involvement Plan and are offered an opportunity to provide feedback. Parents have input on how Title I funds will be used; including funds for parental involvement activities. Volunteers may serve on district-wide and individual campus improvement committees. Translation will be provided so that all parents may participate.

Annual District Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Public Meeting

Somerville ISD will host an annual consultation of the content and effectiveness of all federal programs. Parents will be invited to provide input. During this meeting, activities from the current year will be reviewed and activities for the upcoming year will be planned. Surveys and feedback from stakeholders and all ESEA programs will be discussed.

Building Capacity

Somerville ISD will build school and family capacity to ensure effective engagement of parents and families. The district will support partnerships among the school, families and the community to improve student academic achievement. Efforts to build capacity include the Annual Title I Orientation Meeting on campuses, parent/teacher conferences, and campus parent education sessions, informational performance reports on district/state assessments, report cards, progress reports and explanation of test scores.

Evaluation

Somerville ISD will make an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the quality of its Title I schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities. Somerville ISD will use the findings to design strategies for more effective engagement and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents), its parent and family engagement plans. The goal is to evaluate Title I schools by collecting information in a variety of ways, including surveys, program evaluations and school report cards.

Conclusion

Somerville ISD is committed to the success of all students and will continue to seek active participation by families. The District will partner with parents to monitor the effectiveness of all parent and family engagement activities and the Title I Program. This plan will be implemented by administrators, principals, and staff both at the campus and district levels.