

## Parent/Family Engagement Policy

Del City Elementary recognizes that a child's education is a responsibility shared by both school and parent/guardian. This shared responsibility requires that parent/guardians actively participate in the education of their children and they are informed of the educational practices affecting their children. It is the hope of Del City Elementary that parents become equal partners in the pursuit of education for all of our children.

In compliance with federal law, Section 1116 Parent and Family Engagement, Del City Elementary agrees to implement the following requirements:

- Del City Elementary has an annual Title I meeting. It is held in the evening toward the beginning of the school year. The Title I instructional coach informs the parents about the Title I program. They are also informed that we have a Title I committee that includes parents that help make decisions on how our Title I budget is spent.
- Del City Elementary offers many opportunities throughout the school year for parent engagement. These opportunities include, but are not limited to; Title I parent meeting, Meet the Teacher, Open House, two literacy nights (winter and spring), math/science night (January), Testing Night for grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, a school carnival, scheduled parent-teacher conferences (October and February), Panther Pride assemblies (once a month), and PTA meetings.
- Del City Elementary is able to provide parents and families with:
  - Information about Title I funded programs at the annual title I meetings. This information is also made known to parents when they attend conferences with their child's teacher. The information parents are given about Title I funded programs includes, but is not limited to:
    - Two Title I teacher assistants that offer support during our Panther Power Hour (RTI). This is known as Response to Intervention. It is 45 minutes during the day for each grade, that struggling readers are given interventions to help them grow as readers. On and above level readers are offered enrichment activities to build on their reading skills. The two teachers assistants make it possible for small groups to happen during Panther Power Hour.
    - A curriculum resource to be used by teachers during Panther Power Hour (RTI). This resource is called the Comprehension Toolkit. It helps students learn the strategies they need to use while reading. It does this through high interest text, anchor charts, and student think sheets.

- A computer-reading program called Lexia that is accessible to all students that is utilized during Panther Power Hour (RTI), as well as in the classroom. The program helps to fill reading skill gaps the student might have from a previous grade.
  - Previously purchased Title I technology was upgraded or replaced (new projectors, Smartboards, document cameras, laptops and ipads). A sound and projector system for the gym to use during parent engagement events.
  - Support curriculum needs.
- Del City Elementary uses the Wonders curriculum to teach reading in Kindergarten through third grade. Kindergarten uses Saxon phonics as well. Comprehension Toolkit is used during RTI to supplement reading instruction. Lexia is a technology resource that students use to help fill in gaps for skills they need extra work on or might have missed in a previous grade.
- Del City Elementary provides opportunities, for parents to have input relating to their child's education. Twice a year parent and teacher conferences take place (October and February). If a parent or guardian has a concern they need to let the teacher know and vice versus. As a team the parent, teacher and child can work together to make decisions that are best for the student.
- A parent-teacher-student compact is developed to share responsibility for student achievement. This addresses the importance of communication between families and staff. In this compact the following is agreed to
  - The student agrees to working as hard as possible on school assignments, discuss with his/her parents what is being learned, ask teacher questions to help better understand, go to the library, limited television and read 20 minutes a night.
  - The parent agrees to provide a quiet study time at home to encourage good habits, talk to his/her child about school, support our school's discipline policies, attend conferences, look at school work, visit the school, and encourage his/her child to read nightly.
  - The teacher agrees to provide motivation and interesting learning experiences, explain expectations, instructional goals, and the grading system.
- The teacher will also communicate with the parent to ensure the best decisions are happening for the child. Also, the teacher will find out what techniques work best for the child and provide suggestions to assist parents in working with their child at home. Communication between the parent and

teacher is critical to the student success and these have been outlined and agreed to in our school's compact.

- Del City Elementary ensures effective involvement of parent and support partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement by the following required and allowed activities:
  - Teachers provide information to parents during conferences about the state's academic standards, state assessments, and the child's progress. If a parent does not attend conferences and the teacher is unable to schedule a time the parent can attend, then the information is shared through a phone call or US mail. At the fall conferences, teachers share the student's test scores from the previous year. Teachers share what the academic standards require the student to do for the school year. They go over the parent letter from the first STAR test and explain where his/her child is academically at this time. At the spring conference, teachers give and explain the parent letter from the mid year STAR test. The teacher explains the growth or lack of growth the child has made. Grades and other academic things are discussed at this time.
  - Title I has two literacy nights a year. At these nights, parents get to experience how a teacher performs an interactive read aloud. They get to experience how to question students while reading and activities to do with literature. Brochures on how to help his/her child at home are next to every sign in sheet for literacy nights. At parent/teacher conferences teachers give parents ideas on what to do with their child at home. Many times, teachers provide the resources for the parent to use to work with the child. The Title I instructional room is open to parents to come for help or suggestions on how to work with students.
  - School personnel is offered ideas for communicating with parents such as Class Dojo, Remind 101, class newsletters, and class Facebook or web pages. Training is offered to teachers on how to use these to effectively communicate with parents.
  - Parents are notified about programs, meetings, and other engagement activities through flyers, class newsletters, class dojo, robo calls, remind 101, school website and social media (Facebook and Twitter). Notifications or information is available to parents in a format and language they understand.

We hope that the implementation of our Parent and Family Engagement Act will foster an environment where teachers and parents are partners in ensuring student achievement and success.