



# Somerville Elementary School Family Engagement Policy

## Statement of Purpose

Somerville Elementary School is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child. To this end, we want to set up partnerships with parents and with the community. Everyone gains if school and home work together to encourage high achievement for our students. Neither home nor school can do the job alone. Parents play a vital role as the student's first teachers. A parent's support for their child and for the school is important to the student's success.

To ensure that grade level TEKS are taught, we will hold educators accountable for effective teaching, hold students accountable for their learning, and encourage parental involvement in their child's education. We will continually assess student growth in order to provide timely interventions and evaluate our instruction. Additionally, Somerville Elementary School teachers and staff will work collaboratively with parents and our community in the development, evaluation, and refinement of our Title I programs.

## Parents Involvement in Developing the Policy

Somerville Elementary School Site Based Decision Making Committee is comprised of teachers, parents, community and administration members. The SBDM committee will meet two times a year to develop and discuss the campus parent involvement policy.

Somerville Elementary School will actively recruit members for the SBDM committee in order to create a diverse membership that will work toward the success of our students. Meetings will be planned at reasonable times and locations for all members to attend. If translators are needed, the campus will arrange one to be present.

## Family Engagement Activities to Improve Student Academic Achievement and School Performance

To ensure effective involvement of parents, and to support a partnership among the parents, community and school to improve student achievement, Somerville Elementary School will:

1. Assist parents in understanding SES academic and achievement standards by
  - a. Meet the teacher in August prior to school starting
  - b. Providing handbooks, newsletters, and pamphlets

- c. School report card and progress reports dissemination and explanations.
- d. Student Progress Reports and 6 weeks Report Cards
- 2. Communicate and monitor student's progress by
  - a. Providing interim progress reports
  - b. State Assessment test score dissemination and a letter of explanation
  - c. Face-to-Face conferences
  - d. 504/LPAC/IEP Meetings
- 3. Send information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities in a format they can understand through
  - a. Monthly newsletters
  - b. PTO meetings
  - c. Social media posts
  - d. Conferences
  - e. School Websites/Parent Portal
  - f. Remind 101
- 4. Provide opportunities for parents to communicate with the school through
  - a. Open door policy
  - b. Designated conference times/days with teachers
  - c. Parents can use our computers in the library to check parent portal
- 5. Provide opportunities for parent education and involvement through
  - a. Meet the Teacher
  - b. STAAR Parent Information Nights
  - c. High School Information Night for 7th graders
  - d. Parent/Community Trainings (2 per semester)

### **Building the School's and Parent's Capacity for Strong Family Engagement**

Somerville Elementary School will involve the SBDM committee in identifying barriers of parental involvement and provide parent involvement strategies. The campus will support a variety of parent involvement strategies as it strives to develop and maintain an optimum learning environment for all students. Parents of LEP, disabled, and migrant students will be given full opportunities to participate in parent involvement activities. Information, will be provided, to the extent practicable, in a format and language parents of LEP, disabled and migrant students understand.

### **Annual Title I Parent Meeting**

Somerville Elementary School will convene an annual meeting in the fall semester where staff will review Title I guidelines and services offered through our campus. Parents will be encouraged to become involved in revising and updating the policy as necessary.

The annual meeting will be held at a convenient time and location. Notice of the meeting will be provided through a variety of media, including print, social media and daily campus announcements. If needed, a translator will be available to help with non-english speaking parents.

## **Student-Parent Compact**

In accordance with Title 1 regulations, the campus will develop and annually update a Parent-Teacher-Student Compact. This compact will explain how parents, teachers, and students will share responsibility for student success. Members of the SBDM committee will be consulted in the design, update, and implementation of the compact annually. Every parent will receive a copy of the compact in the fall semester in a language he/she understands.

## **School-Parent Communication**

Parents will be informed of school activities through various methods of communication throughout the school year including: Electronic communication, social media such as Facebook and Twitter, school website, written notices, conferences, Remind 101 and School messenger. These tools will be utilized to establish and maintain an open line of communication. Parents are encouraged to use Parent Portal on a regular basis to monitor student grades and performance.

## **Cross-Program Coordination for Parent Involvement Activities**

Parent involvement strategies will be incorporated into Somerville Elementary School's curriculum and programs through the Campus Improvement Plan. SIS will coordinate Title 1 Parent Involvement activities with other programs within the district to meet special needs.

## **Evaluation**

The SBDM will annually review and evaluate all aspects of the parent involvement program. Parent surveys, including questions about the effectiveness and barriers of the program, will be distributed and analyzed. Teacher surveys, teacher contact logs, and other program contact logs will also be reviewed toward the effectiveness of parent involvement. Based on the data gathered, the SBDM committee will revise the Parent Involvement Policy and Parent-Teacher-Student Compact as needed based on the results of the annual review.