

Garland ISD

Parental Involvement Policy

2017-2018

Garland ISD will involve parents in the development of the District Improvement Plan, Title I Program Plan, the Parent Involvement Policy, and the school review and improvement process.

- Garland ISD jointly develops and approves the district improvement plan with parents through the District Education Improvement Committee.
- The district Parent Advisory Committee will be involved in the development and approval of the Title I Program Plan and the District Title I Parental Involvement Policy.
- Campus Improvement Plans are jointly developed with parents through the Campus Improvement Team which is composed of campus staff, parents, and community members.

Garland ISD will support Title I campuses in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

- The Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Department provides support to departments and campuses in their family engagement efforts as requested (training and consultation).
- The FACE Department provides assistance with the evaluation of the campus parental involvement plan through an annual survey.
- The FACE Department provides training for staff and parents in the development of the campus parent involvement plan, assists campuses in identifying effective parental involvement practices, and provides community presentations.

Garland ISD will build the schools' and parents' ability to create strong parental involvement.

- Parents may be assisted in understanding state standards, district and school assessments, and how to monitor a child's progress in the following ways:
 - GISD will provide parents with workshops that explain the assessments and how they are used to measure student progress.
 - The District will provide the Testing Calendar online so parents can stay informed of the testing schedule.
 - The Advanced Academics Program provides parent workshops to inform parents of the national assessments given to students, how the results are used, and how parents can support their children. Parents are informed through their child's campus of these events.
 - GISD assists parents in monitoring their child's progress through Skyward and frequent reports of student progress. Training in Skyward is available through the local campus.
 - The district provides an assessment page on the district website to assist parents in understanding the assessments given, what they measure, and how the schools and families will use these to measure student academic progress and placement.
 - Each Title I Campus conducts activities designed to assist parents in understanding state and district assessments and achievement standards.
 - Each campus sends information to parents regarding standardized assessments to help them understand their child's test results.
 - GISD will provide parent programs which cover diverse topics such as supporting students, parenting, and partnering with schools.
- Garland ISD will provide materials and training to help parents work with their child, such as literacy training and using technology.
 - Each Title I campus provides training for parents according to the results of their Comprehensive Needs Assessment. This may include technology and literacy training as well as other topics identified.
 - The First Steps program provides literacy training to parents of young children to enable them to support their child's literacy acquisition and school readiness.
 - The Summer Reading program will provide books for all students in Pre-K through First Grade to support shared reading at home.

- The Family and Community Engagement Department provides resources to campuses and facilitates parent workshops aligned with the National PTA standards for family engagement.
- The District conducts district-wide parent technology events to showcase tools and resources that families can access to support learning at home.
- Garland ISD will, with the assistance of parents, educate principals, teachers, and other staff in the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, how to implement and coordinate parent programs, and how to build ties between parents and the schools.
 - Training is provided to schools on developing their parent involvement plan.
 - Each local campus provides training, with the assistance of parents, to its staff regarding parent involvement.
 - The Family and Community Engagement Department provides professional development sessions for campus staff which are aligned with the National PTA standards for family engagement.
 - The district designates November of each year as Family Involvement Month to emphasize the importance of partnerships between families and schools.
- Garland ISD will ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents in a format and language the parents can understand whenever reasonably possible.
 - Information and documents important to parents and families are located on the district website in appropriate languages.
 - Each Title I campus is required to document the manner in which it notifies parents in a language and format that is easily understood.
 - The FACE department notifies parents of district-wide parent events in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese
- Garland ISD will provide reasonable support for parental involvement activities.
 - Garland ISD supports the District Council of PTAs.
 - Each Title I campus has a PTA/PTSA board which meets regularly to support the parent and school relationship.
 - Booster clubs and other parent organizations may receive support for its activities through the neighborhood campus.

- Interpretation in Spanish and Vietnamese for district-wide events facilitated by the FACE department is provided upon request.

Garland ISD will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with other local parent involvement programs.

- First Steps will collaborate with Head Start to recruit parents.
- Campuses will work with local parent involvement programs to include them in their parent involvement activities as appropriate.

Garland ISD will develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and business to participate in parent involvement activities.

- The GISD Education Foundation works with businesses and the community to involve them in parent involvement activities at the campus and district level.
- GISD will develop a volunteer website to improve communication between schools and community partners in order to link resources to needs.

Garland ISD will conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent involvement policy in improving the academic quality of Title I schools. This evaluation, distributed to parents, will seek to identify barriers which inhibit greater participation by parents. The findings will be used to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and the parental involvement policy will be revised as necessary.