

Texas Education Agency No Child Left Behind State Parent/Family Involvement Plan

Mission:

The mission of the public education system of this state is to ensure that all Texas children have access to a quality education that enables them to achieve their potential and fully participate now and in the future in the social, economic, and educational opportunities of our state and nation. That mission is grounded on the conviction that a general diffusion of knowledge is essential for the welfare of this state and for the preservation of the liberties and rights of citizens. It is further grounded on the conviction that a successful public education system is directly related to a strong, dedicated, and supportive family and that parental involvement in the school is essential for the maximum educational achievement of a child.

Vision:

Parents, families, educators, and community members work together as full partners, hold themselves mutually accountable, and have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to succeed in improving achievement for all students.

Principles:

To achieve this vision we embrace these principles:

- Parents, families, educators, and communities are accountable for improving student achievement by supporting parent/family involvement.
- The Texas Education Agency monitors this shared responsibility and provides an annual report of progress to the public.
- Schools provide a welcoming, trustful, and engaging environment.
- Through ongoing training, the Texas Education Agency, institutions of higher learning, education service centers, local education agencies, campuses, parent-teacher organizations, and community organizations build the capacity of parents/families and educators to act as full partners, informed decision-makers, and effective advocates for children.
- Schools and school systems respond to such barriers as language, culture, education levels, and work schedules of parents/families that may limit opportunities to participate fully in the education of their children.
- Parents/families support their child's learning at home and in school and serve as their child's advocate.
- Parents, families, educators, and community members advocate for all children.

Goals:**I. Communication**

The Texas Education Agency:

- encourages LEAs to promote regular, two-way communication between home and school.
- encourages LEAs to promote a safe and open atmosphere for parents/families to visit the school their children attend and actively solicit parent/family support and assistance for school programs.
- collects effective parent/family involvement practices and disseminates them to all local education agencies (LEAs) and education service centers.
- communicates the rights and responsibilities of parents/families to develop and respond to education policy, procedures, and practices at the state, local, and campus levels, and using varied methods, media, resources, and languages.
- encourages LEAs to develop parent information and outreach centers.
- ensures that LEAs disseminate information to parents on all required notifications.

II. Accountability

The Texas Education Agency:

- ensures parent/family involvement practices meet the highest professional and technical standards.
- reviews the parent/family involvement policies and practices of LEAs to determine if the policies and practices meet the requirements of PL 107-110 Sec. 1118.

III. Partnership

The Texas Education Agency:

- collaborates with parents, families, school staff, and community members to ensure all children receive a high quality education.
- supports the development of trusting and respectful relationships among parents, families, educators, and community members.
- ensures all parents/families, regardless of income, education, or cultural background, are supported as concerned and involved partners who want children to learn at high levels.
- works with LEAs to ensure that parents are full partners in decision-making and on advisory committees, as appropriate, to assist in the education of their child.

IV. Promote Active Involvement

The Texas Education Agency:

- ensures that LEAs reduce barriers that may limit parent/family opportunities to participate fully in the education of their children.
- fosters attainment of high parent/family involvement standards that reduce barriers to greater participation by parents/families in school planning, review, and improvement.
- encourages LEAs to ensure that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.

V. Training for Educators and Parents/Families

The Texas Education Agency:

- develops the capacity of LEA staff to work with parents/families.
- ensures that LEAs build the capacity of parents/families to participate in meaningful ways in the education of their children.
- supports programs that help parents/families guide children's learning from preschool through high school (i.e. literacy, study skills, technology applications).
- ensures that the LEA assesses parent/family and community involvement training needs and provides appropriate technical assistance training, resources, and mentoring.
- encourages LEAs, education service centers, colleges, universities, community organizations and agencies to develop and offer professional development on parent/family involvement for current teachers, administrators, and other school staff.
- ensures that LEAs include parent/family and community involvement measures in their local assessment of training needs.
- encourages colleges and universities to develop coursework in parent/family and community involvement for all undergraduate students seeking teaching certification in Texas.
- ensures that LEAs offer parent/family learning workshops on relevant topics to be held at convenient times and places easily accessible to all families.

VI. Community Resources

The Texas Education Agency:

- encourages LEAs to support parental/family involvement and to build strong connections among schools, local businesses, community organizations, and agencies.
- encourages LEAs to collaborate with local businesses in identifying and implementing education-friendly practices.

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