

# *Parent and Family Engagement Policy*

## **Brazos Elementary School**

### **Brazos ISD**

Parent and family engagement is the mutual responsibility of families, schools, and communities; which builds relationships to support student learning and achievement and to support family well-being, family- student relationships and on-going learning and development of children, family, and educators. Family engagement is fully integrated in the child's educational experience and supports the whole child. It is culturally and linguistically responsive and is continuous through a child's life.

#### **Mission:**

Our mission is to bridge the gap between parent, school, and community and improve relationships between home and school by empowering families to become proactive in their children's education on a continuous basis.

#### **General Expectations:**

Brazos Elementary School will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement/family engagement and expect that the Title 1, Part A school will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with parental involvement.

Parental and family involvement means the participation of parents and/or family in regular, two-way communication involving student academic learning and other school activities ensuring:

- (A) that parents and/or family play an integral role in assisting the child's learning;
- (B) that parents and/or family are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- (C) that parents and/or family are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and serve in committees to assist in the education of their child;
- (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as described through ESSA.

#### **How BES will Implement Required Family- Engagement Plan Components:**

Brazos Elementary will take the following actions to involve parents and/or family/guardians in the joint development of its family engagement plan:

- (A) The family engagement plan will be discussed and amendments made, if any, during a regularly- scheduled meeting of the Improvement Committee, Site-Base, PTE, and/or a focus session. The results of the annual evaluations of the effectiveness of family engagement will be used during the discussion of the plan. The district-wide family engagement plan will also be presented during other district-wide meetings involving parents and/or family/guardians in order to obtain any additional parental input on the plan. Once per school year, the plan will be posted on the district website for parent input/comments.
- (B) BES will take the following actions to involve parents and/or family/guardians in the process of school review and improvement by:
  - Sending information on academic assessments home with each student, to the extent possible. This information will be posted on the district website, and disseminated at district-wide meetings involving parents and/or family/guardians and in a language parents and/or family/guardians can understand.
- (C) BES will coordinate and integrate family engagement strategies in Title 1, Part A programs under the following programs: nearby daycares and Pre-K, by:

- Inviting parents and/or family/guardians to participate in the same or similar activities conducted by the district and/or campuses. Invitations to programs, meetings, and other activities will be posted on social media, website, published in the local newspaper, and/or sent home with each student. These invitations will be in an understandable, streamlined format and to the extent possible, in a language that parents and/or family/guardians can understand.
- (D) BES will build the schools' and parents and/or family capacity for strong family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and/or family and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents and/or family and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities:
- The Title 1, Part A campus will provide assistance to parents and/or family of children served in the school and district as appropriate, in understanding topics as the following, by undertaking the actions described:
    1. The State's academic content standards
    2. The State's student academic achievement standards,
    3. The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
    4. The requirements of Title 1, Part A programs
    5. How to monitor their child's progress
    6. How to work with educators
    7. Curriculum and resources used to measure student progress and achievement.
- (E) BES will provide trainings and materials to help parents and/or family/guardians work with their children to improve their child's academic achievement and parenting skills, such as literacy training, family instructional tools (healthy meal planning, physical activity, and content areas) and using technology as appropriate, to foster family engagement by:
- Brazos Elementary School will provide the materials and training by conducting parent meetings. These topics will also be discussed at the site-base, PTE, and other campus and district meetings.
  - Brazos Elementary School will conduct content area nights (i.e. math night), Back-to-School Night, and 1<sup>st</sup> 6 weeks conferences to assist with this type of training.

- (F) BES will with the assistance of its parents and/or family educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents and/or family/guardians as equal partners; in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build a foundation for the collaboration of mutual partners while embracing the individuality and uniqueness of families.