Family and Community Engagement

Coldwell Elementary School

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Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2023-2024

I. MISSION STATEMENT

Coldwell Elementary School is committed to providing opportunities for students to achieve their personal best and embrace lifelong learning in a safe and positive environment. Students are encouraged to be responsible and committed to their academic success while developing into productive valuable citizens who work to their fullest potential with the cooperation of school administration, family, community, faculty, and staff. It is our mission to produce a community of life-long learners and will collaborate to ensure mastery of learning through systems of continuous improvement resulting in responsible and productive citizens.

It is our pledge to maintain an open line of communication from school to homes and our goal to provide ample opportunities for parental engagement throughout each school year. Title I regulations require each school served under Title I to jointly develop with, and distribute to parents and families of participating children, a written parental involvement policy agreed on by the parents and families that describes the requirements outlined in Title I law.

II. POLICY ENGAGEMENT

A. Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time (morning and evening) in which all parents and families of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents and families of their school's participation under this Title I, and to explain the requirements of this policy, and the right of the parents and families to be involved:

Our school holds Open House, Coffee with the Principal and Title 1, Part A and Benefits of Family Engagement meetings by the end of September each school year to review Title I School requirements and the school's Parent and Family Involvement Policy with parents and families.

In addition, the principal regularly gives parents and families updates on school test data, adequate yearly progress status and facilitates a review of the school's campus improvement plan.

^{*}Document posted on episd.org/coldwell under Parents - Files for Parents

^{*}Documento publicado en episd.org/coldwell bajo Padres - Archivos para padres

- B. Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning, evening or by Zoom and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, childcare, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement:
 - Our school holds a Parent and Family Involvement Policy meeting by the end of September each school year to review Title I school requirements with parents and families.
 - Parents and families are invited to participate in a variety of meetings and activities over the course of the school year. Parent/Teacher Conferences are held in September and again in February to provide parents and families with the opportunity to formally visit their child's classroom to become better informed about grade level expectations and their student's academic progress.
 - The school's Parent Center is advertised frequently throughout the school year to highlight various workshops, meetings, materials and training for parents and families. The center has different resources and information for parents and families. The school gives access to computers for parents and families to access the Parent Portal and monitor their child's progress.
 - In order to meet the needs of our diverse group of parents and families, training on a multitude of topics is obtainable year-round between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30 pm.
 - Formal training and workshops scheduled throughout the year are guided by parent and family input and survey data and vary in dates and times. The Family Interest Survey will be sent out in August to determine what topics parents are interested in receiving information about. Due to the hectic and varying schedules of our school family, all efforts will be made to provide training opportunities to parents and families via links on our school website, making information accessible twenty-four hours a day.
 - Parents and families will be invited to participate in parent-teacher conferences throughout the year, as needed, to discuss their child's progress. Teachers may receive parents and families in the morning, during the school day conference period and/or afterschool to accommodate as many reciprocating parents and families as possible.
- C. Involve parents and families in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under this part, including planning, review, and improvement of the school parental involvement policy:
 - Our school annually invites parents and families to participate in review and revision meetings to examine and discuss our Campus Involvement Plan and Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

The school's Parent Teacher Organization (when established) reviews school policy in an organized, ongoing and timely manner in our school to create a forum for parental input and involvement. Our Family and Community Liaison connects our school to parental involvement resources.

D. Provide parents and families of participating children timely information about programs under this part; descriptions and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet; and if requested by parents and families, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any suggestions as soon as practically possible.

Our school communicates with parents and families often about the state's curricular and assessment expectations, school wide requirements in relation to the delivery of instruction, the techniques utilized to evaluate student work, and individual classroom rituals and routines pertinent to the academic success of our students.

We use a variety of communicative techniques such as School Website, ClassDojo, Blackboard Notification System, Parent/Teacher Conferences, PTO meetings, individual notes/calls home from teachers, Family Interest Survey, parent and family workshops, Open House, Progress Reports, Report Cards, school monthly calendar, parent board and school marquee to solicit parent and family participation and deliver important information in hopes of creating productive dialogue between home and school concerning improved student achievement.

E. SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HIGH STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

1. As a component of the school-level parental involvement policy, each school shall jointly develop with parents and families for all children served under this part a school-parent and family compact outlining how parents and families, the entire school faculty, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement.

The education of a student is not only the responsibility of the teacher, but also of the parent and family and the child. For this reason, a Parent-Teacher-School-Student Compact has been developed and is utilized in our school.

This document serves as an agreement between all parties that they will adhere to certain duties and responsibilities to ensure the success of the student. It is distributed to all campus parents and families at the beginning of each school year.

The compacts are kept by the teacher and used in student and parent and family conferences to remind each participant of their responsibilities. Parents are provided a copy of the compact during the Title I a.m. and Title I p.m. meeting, and at Parent/Teacher Conferences. Copies of these compacts are also sent home by the end of September of each school year and are available at our school's front office, library, parent board, school website and Parent Center.

These compacts are also used to motivate students, parents and families to become more involved in the educational process and to let parents and families know that they are equal partners in their child's learning.

F. BUILDING THE CAPACITY FOR ENGAGEMENT

To ensure effective involvement of parents and families and to support a partnership among the school involved and parents, families, and the community to improve student academic achievement. Each school and local educational agency assisted under this part,

1. Shall aid the parents and families of children served by the school or local educational agency, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the state's academic content standards and state student academic achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, the requirements of this part, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.

Our school will provide for this provision as stated in the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Shared Responsibilities for High Student Achievement sections of this document.

2. Shall provide materials and training to help parents and families work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.

Our school will provide for this provision as stated in the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Shared Responsibilities for High Student Achievement sections of this document.

3. Shall educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and all staff, with the assistance of parents and families as to the value of contributions of parents and families, and in how reaching out and communicating with parents and families as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent and family programs, and help build ties between parents and families and the school:

Faculty and staff members will be cognizant of educational research on parent and family involvement. Parental input will be solicited throughout the year in meetings, through surveys and during one-on-one conferences.

Information derived will be utilized by the school's Administrative Team and to strengthen the tie between school and home for the purpose of increasing student achievement. The Family Engagement department will take the lead in providing a multitude of opportunities in providing parent classes, meetings and other activities for parents and families to become involved in our school over the course of the year to take full advantage of the benefits that come with active parent and family involvement.

4. Shall ensure information related to school and parent and family programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents and families of participating children in a format and a language that parents and families can understand.

Coldwell Elementary will post information on our website, on the marquee, ClassDojo, on various social media outlets and as a phone call to parents through our blackboard call out system. We also provide information to parents about whether they call the school or come in person with a knowledgeable staff made available to them.

5. In carrying out the parental involvement requirements of this part, districts and schools shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents and families with limited English proficiency, parents and families with children with disabilities, and parents and families of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a practicable format, and in a language such parents and families can understand.

Parents and families of all students, regardless of English proficiency, mobility, or disability, are an important part of our learning community. All parents and families are afforded the opportunity to be involved in their child's school environment. For this reason, if a special need is identified that would help a parent and family to understand the educational process and the academic progress of his/her child more fully, assistance will be provided to that parent. This type of support often comes in the form of interpreted school documents in a parent's primary language, having an interpreter on hand to translate valuable information at school wide meetings and events, working with an interpreter to provide translation in parent/teacher conferences, making available parent and family resource in our center that are in English and Spanish, participating in faculty and staff training to better understand the culture of the student served, providing easier accessibility to parents and families and/or students with disabilities, etc.

The Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with and agreed on with parent/family of children participating in Title 1, Part A programs as evidenced by Title 1 meeting documentation (notification, agenda, sign-in sheets and evaluations). The Parent and Family Engagement Policy was adopted by Coldwell Elementary on April 25, 2023 and will be in effect for the 2023-2024 school year.