

## **PARENT and FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

### Statement of Purpose

Itasca Independent School District is committed to the goal of providing a quality education for every child. In order to accomplish this goal, partnerships must be established with parents and the community. Everyone gains if school and home work together to promote high achievement for our children. Neither home nor school can do the job alone. Parents play an extremely important role as children's first teachers. The District recognizes and encourages parents in the four key roles that they play in their children's learning as:

- Teacher – helping their child at home,
- Supporter – contributing their skills to the school,
- Advocate – helping their child receive fair treatment, and
- Decision Maker – participating in joint problem-solving with the school at every level.

### Parent Involvement in Developing the Policy

The district Parent/Community Advisory Board, is composed of parents, community leaders, school board members, and district personnel. The Advisory Board has direct input in developing the parent involvement policy on an on-going basis. The Campus Improvement Committee on each campus provides input concerning the campus-based policy. Parent comments from parent/teacher conferences, parent surveys, and other meetings to solicit parent input are used in the development and revision of this policy.

### Itasca ISD Parent/Student Partnership Pledge

In order for school, parents, and students to share responsibility for high student achievement, the Itasca ISD/Parent/Student Partnership Pledge is reviewed each year by campus improvement committees and by the Parent/Community Advisory Board. This pledge is included in each campus handbook for the school official, parent and student to sign and return to the home campus. A copy is distributed to parents at the parent/teacher conference. The Pledge outlines school, parent, and student responsibilities necessary for effective learning to take place.

### Types of Parental Involvement

The district Parent Involvement Director, in coordination with campus principals, provide the technical assistance and other support necessary to help schools plan and implement effective parental involvement efforts. The Director may also provide teacher training in working with parents. Realizing the value of parents and their contribution to the partnership of creating successful students, input will be requested to assist education personnel in building upon that partnership relationship to strengthen ties between home and school.

The following are possible opportunities for home-school partnerships that parents are encouraged to take advantage of throughout the year.

- Parent education workshops
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Home visits
- PTA/PTO
- Itasca ISD Parent/Student Partnership Pledge
- Title I meetings as designated by each Title I campus
- Itasca ISD website
- Parent Surveys

### Staff/Parent Communication

Communications with parents, as well as materials and notices sent home, are provided in Spanish as needed.

Teachers will provide progress reports for parents every three weeks. At least one conference concerning the child's progress will be held at the end of the first reporting period and during the second semester at the elementary level. Secondary level conferences are held as needed. Conferences may also be held at the request of the parent or teacher. Additional communication may come home in the form of: phone calls, newsletters, weekly memos, notes home, school marquee, and district and campus websites.

### Evaluation

Evaluations will be conducted through:

- District Parent Involvement Advisory Board Review
- Annual Title I meetings on Title I campuses
- Annual Public Hearing for Title programs
- Campus surveys conducted with parents

The district and campuses will use information from these sources to design strategies for school improvement and to revise the parental involvement policy.

Questions, concerns, and comments may be directed to Lisa VonBorstel, Director of Special Programs at 254-687-2922.