



Athens ISD District Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2018-2019

Athens ISD Mission Statement:

Athens ISD will create an environment where students reach their full potential and become productive, successful citizens.

Statement of Purpose:

Athens ISD believes every child should have the opportunity to attain his/her full potential. Therefore, Athens ISD will maximize its resources to enable each child to become a successful learner.

A key resource is its people: administrators, teachers, school staff, parents, and community members. We will work together to establish effective partnerships; together everyone achieves more. School and home must work together to realize higher student achievement. Ongoing, two-way, meaningful communication will occur to facilitate mutual understanding and to stimulate student success. Additionally, Athens ISD understands that the parental involvement policy is a part of the larger district and campus improvement plans.

We recognize that some students may need the extra assistance available through the Title I Program, as well as other programs to reach these goals. The goal of parent involvement is to provide opportunities, training and information for parents that will help them assume a more meaningful role in improving student achievement and increase their effectiveness when participating in the planning, design, implementation and evaluation of school programs, i.e. Title I programs.

Athens ISD, "*Igniting Potential-Inspiring Success*" intends to include parents in all aspects of the district's Title I Program.

Building Capacity:

Athens ISD values the partnership of the parents in their child's education. There are many ways parents can make significant contributions to student success both at home and by volunteering at the school. Student achievement is the result of effective home-school-community partnerships.

In order to build a dynamic home-school partnership Athens ISD, with cooperation of the campuses, will provide the following:

- An annual meeting where parents will learn about the requirements of the school's Title I program, and be given an opportunity to become involved with their child's education. The annual meeting will be held during the first semester of school. Social media and messenger will be used to notify parents of the meeting.
- Parents will have the opportunity to help review, plan for and make suggestions to improve the Title I program, as well as the Parental Involvement Policy and the School Parent Compact. One meeting will be provided in the fall and one meeting will be scheduled in the spring.
- Parent meetings and conferences held at different times during the day to accommodate the needs of the parents.
- Communications with parents will be in a format and a language that they can understand.
- A description and explanation of the curriculum used, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress (benchmarks etc.), and proficiency levels students are expected to meet, will be provided to parents through a letter or face to face conference.
- Assistance to parents in understanding the state's academic content standards, known as the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and the state student achievement standards based on the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR), will be communicated through school-wide meetings.
- A school-parent compact designed by school staff and parents that outlines how parents, the entire campus staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improvement in student academic achievement.
- A minimum of one scheduled parent conference where the school-parent compact will be discussed as it relates to the progress of the student, as well as the expectations for the grade level school curriculum, test information, and any other concerns the teacher or parent may have.

- Provide assistance in monitoring their child's progress through Family Access.
- Ensure timely communication is provided via Constant Contact which not only provides information but is an additional avenue for two-way communication.
- Appropriate parent participation opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to their child's education, if requested by the parent. Parents may request a meeting with the principal by phone, e-mail or in writing. In addition, parents may attend the scheduled yearly and semester meetings.
- Information relating to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities will be sent to parents in a timely manner. Information will be given to parents through newsletters or social media from the school, PTA, and from the classroom teacher. In addition, the school marquees will be used to inform parents of dates of programs, meetings and activities.
- Materials and specific training to help parents work with their children to improve achievement. Parents and community members are always welcome at our schools. By using their suggestions to improve our schools and by working together, we can make all the students in our school successful learners.
- Parents will receive information in a language they can understand that will detail the activities of the school, and will be asked to participate.
- Schools may use communication strategies such as personal contact, newsletters, notes sent home with the students, and e-mail to invite parents to participate in the school's activities.
- Annually Athens ISD will assess the needs of the parents and children in the school community using a variety of tools including a survey or questionnaire. The findings will be used to revise the Title I program to meet the current needs. Workshops or other training will be made available to educators and parents to address these needs. Parents will be notified about training opportunities.

Reservation of Funds

Athens ISD is required to set aside at least 1% of its Title I funds for the purposes of parental involvement. Those funds will be divided among the Title I campuses.

School Parent Compacts

Athens ISD will ensure campuses consult with each school's Parent Advisory Committee to annually develop, review, and revise the school-parent compact. The compact will identify the responsibilities of the staff to provide high-level curriculum and instruction, and the expectations of the parents to provide support in their children's learning. The compact will address the best ways to maintain positive, timely communication between school and home. The compacts will be available to all parents and families in the student handbook, on the school website, and it will be discussed at parent-teacher conferences in the elementary schools.

Conclusion

Athens ISD is committed to the success of students. We will work together with parents to monitor the effectiveness of our Parent and Family Engagement and Title I Programs and to provide excellence in education. This policy will be promoted by the administrators, principals, and other school staff as we seek active participation by our parents and families and community.

Date Presented to the Board of Trustees: October 22, 2018