

Grapeland ISD Parental Involvement Policy

GISD Mission Statement

The mission of the Grapeland Independent School District is to educate all of its students to their fullest potential.

Statement of Purpose

Grapeland ISD is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every student in the district. To this end, we want to establish partnerships with parents and with the community. Neither home nor school can do the job alone. Parents play an extremely important role as the children's first teachers. Their support for their children and for the school is critical to their children's success at every step of the way. The purpose of parent involvement is to promote a school-home partnership that will help all students on all campuses succeed. Everyone gains if school and home work together to promote high achievement for our children. Grade level goals for the students of Grapeland ISD will be distributed to all parents in the district, with the expectations that all students will work toward these goals. 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.

1. Grapeland ISD will involve parents in the joint development of the district's plan and the process of school review and improvement. Grapeland ISD intends to include parents in all aspects of the district's Title I Program and Parental Involvement Policy. The goal is a school-home partnership that will help all students in the district succeed.
2. The Grapeland ISD will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. Grapeland ISD will provide support and training to principals and teachers to promote the parent involvement activities.
3. In order to build a dynamic home-school partnership, Grapeland 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 nine-week period. A letter will be sent to each child's parents, informing them of the date and time.
 - 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, TPRI, etc.), and proficiency levels students are expected to meet, will be provided to parents through a letter or 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 Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR), will be communicated through school wide meetings and a letter from the principal.

- A school-parent compact designed by parents and school staff 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.
- 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.
- 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 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 from the school, PTO, and from the classroom teacher. In addition, the school marquee will be used to inform parents of dates of programs, meetings and activities.
- 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.

4. Grapeland ISD, to the extent feasible and appropriate will coordinate and integrate Title I, Part A parental involvement strategies with parental involvement strategies under other programs, such as Head Start.

5. Grapeland ISD, with the involvement of parents, conducts an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the District Title I Parental Involvement Policy with regard to:

- improving the academic quality of the Title I, Part A schools
- identifying barriers to greater participation by parents, giving particular attention to parents who:
 - are economically disadvantaged
 - are disabled
 - have limited English proficiency
 - have limited literacy
 - are of any racial or ethnic minority background

District personnel and parents will evaluate the parental involvement activities and the Parental Involvement Policy and use the findings of such an evaluation to recommend strategies for more effective parental involvement.

6. Grapeland ISD will involve parents in the activities of Title I, Part A schools. Timely communication and an inviting and family friendly atmosphere will enhance parent involvement in the activities of the Title I, Part A participating schools. 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. Parents and community members are always welcome at our schools. By working together and making suggestions to improve our schools, we can make all the students in our schools successful learners.