

**Parent Involvement Policy
Smyer Independent School District
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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The mission of the Smyer Independent School District, in partnership with the community, is to graduate all students with skills and values to compete successfully as life-long learners in society by addressing the needs and recognizing the worth of each student through a coordinated program of instruction in a safe, disciplined environment. Realizing that a positive link between home and school is vital to the academic success of the child, Smyer ISD is dedicated to developing and maintaining partnerships with parents and community members. Our district places a high priority on maintaining an open line of communication with all stakeholders.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The SISD District Improvement Committee is comprised of teachers, parents, community/business representatives, teacher aide, and school district administrators. This committee designs, provides guidance for implementation, and evaluates the District Improvement Plan. The goal of parent and community involvement is an integral part of the District Plan and is directly monitored by this committee. Selected parent volunteers work with district staff to help communicate and keep the staff and parents of our students informed and involved in opportunities, decisions, and programs offered by Smyer ISD. Meetings are planned at the campus at convenient times for the committee members.

ANNUAL MEETING FOR TITLE I PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

SISD uses Title I funds to provide school-wide services for all students. We hold at least two meetings annually to review Title I guidelines and services offered through the district. Copies of the Parent Involvement Policy and the Smyer ISD Parent-Student Compact are distributed at the beginning of the school year and evaluated at the Title I meetings. Parents are encouraged to become involved in revising and updating the policy as necessary, and parent volunteers are recruited for the various committee appointments throughout the year.

The meetings are held at a convenient time and location; notices of the meetings are provided through written invitations to parents/caregivers and through public notices. Translators are available to help with non-English speaking parents/caregivers.

PARENT-STUDENT COMPACTS

In accordance with Title I regulations, each Title I campus has a school-parent compact that outlines the roles and responsibilities for the teacher, parent, and student in the education for each child. The compact, written in both English and Spanish, is provided annually to all parents. The compact explains how students, parents, and staff will share responsibility for student performance and success. Members of the District Improvement Committees will be consulted in the design and implementation of the compact.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SISD will encourage and support parental involvement as it strives to develop and maintain an optimum learning environment for all students.

- Spanish translators will be provided for parents when needed.
- Information will be provided in Spanish when needed.
- Parents may contribute through band, athletic and academic volunteer opportunities.
- Parents may contribute by creating a supportive home environment.
- Parents are invited to participate in parent-teacher conferences.
- Parents may participate by attending school meetings.
- Parents are invited to be involved in special programs. (Red Ribbon Week, Veteran's Day Program, athletic and band events, academic/character programs, ARDS, 504s, etc)
- Parents are kept informed through agendas, emails, social media, and the website.
- Parents may email Smyer faculty.
- Parents may use Parent Portal Access to check on their student's progress.

Staff and Parent Communication

Smyer ISD encourages open communication between home and school. Every teacher has a 45-minute conference period. Please utilize this time, as well as time before and after school, to contact us. Please keep us updated on current addresses and phone numbers, in addition to other contact persons for times when a parent is unavailable. Parents/caregivers will be informed of school activities through various avenues of communication throughout the school year; they will be consulted, informed and involved in the implementation of the Title I program. Parents will be invited to participate in meetings tailored to meet the unique parental/student needs of Smyer ISD. Newsletters, teacher notes, conferences, personal contacts, phone calls, written notices, as well as other strategies implemented by the district will be used to establish and maintain open lines of communication with parents/caregivers. Our campus staff members are trained in positive communication strategies, as well as effective ways to work with parents, students, and members of the community. We will maintain a record of parent contacts/involvement throughout the school year.

Communication about district and campus activities are provided through various avenues including:

- District Website
- Social Media
- District Newsletters

Parents are encouraged to become a school volunteer and participate in campus organizations. These organizations include booster clubs and Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) units. Additionally, parents may offer to serve as a parent representative on the district-level planning committees assisting in the development of educational goals and plans to improve student achievement. The Smyer ISD School Health Advisory Council provides another opportunity for parents to become actively involved in the decision-making process. This council helps ensure that local community values are reflected in health education instruction.

Parent Notification: Compliance with P.L. 107-110, Section 1111(h)(6)(A)

As a parent of a student at Smyer ISD, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child, and Federal law requires the school district to provide you this information in a timely manner if you request it. Specifically, you have the right to request the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether the teacher meets the state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or provisional status because of special circumstances.

- The teacher's college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degrees, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- Whether paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if so, their qualifications.

MATCHING PROGRAMS TO THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY

Community members are encouraged and provided opportunities to provide input into the district's educational programs. These opportunities include, but are not limited to, serving on campus and district committees, speaking at meetings of the Board of Trustees, and written communication. Additionally, district staff members are affiliated with various civic organizations and/or serve on committees of these organizations. This provides numerous opportunities for district personnel to gain insight into the needs of our community. Workshops and programs are tailored to meet the unique needs of students, parents, and community members.

EVALUATION

Parents will be encouraged to provide input regarding the parental involvement policy. The evaluation procedure will include an assessment of the success of the policy as well as recommendations for improvement. The assessment will include parent surveys and written and oral communication. The results of these assessments will be shared with members of the District Improvement Committee. The committee will review the results and make recommendations for revisions of the policy as deemed necessary.