

# **PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY FOR SPARTA ELEMENTARY**

## Statement of Purpose

Belton 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, consisting of approximately twenty-five members 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.

## Belton ISD Parent/Student Partnership Pledge

In order for school, parents, and students to share responsibility for high student achievement, the Belton 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, provides 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.

- Tiger Topic Sessions with campus counselors throughout the school year
- Parent education workshops – specifically regarding use of technology
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Home visits
- PTA
- Belton ISD Parent/Student Partnership Pledge
- Title I meetings as designated by each Title I campus
- Parent Resource Library in the Conference Room of the library
- Belton ISD and Sparta website
- Parent Surveys

- Special Campus Events

#### 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 during the first reporting period. 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, social media (such as Facebook and Twitter), school marquee, and district and campus websites.

#### Coordination and Integration with Other Programs

BISD will coordinate and integrate parenting programs with other programs, such as Head Start, State-run preschool programs, and Community Education. Utilization of Family Frameworks materials through trained personnel and provision of transitional activities for Head Start to Pre-K and Kindergarten will be offered through Belton ISD.

#### 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 Sybil Collins, Director of Federal Programs/Parent Involvement at 254-215-2032.