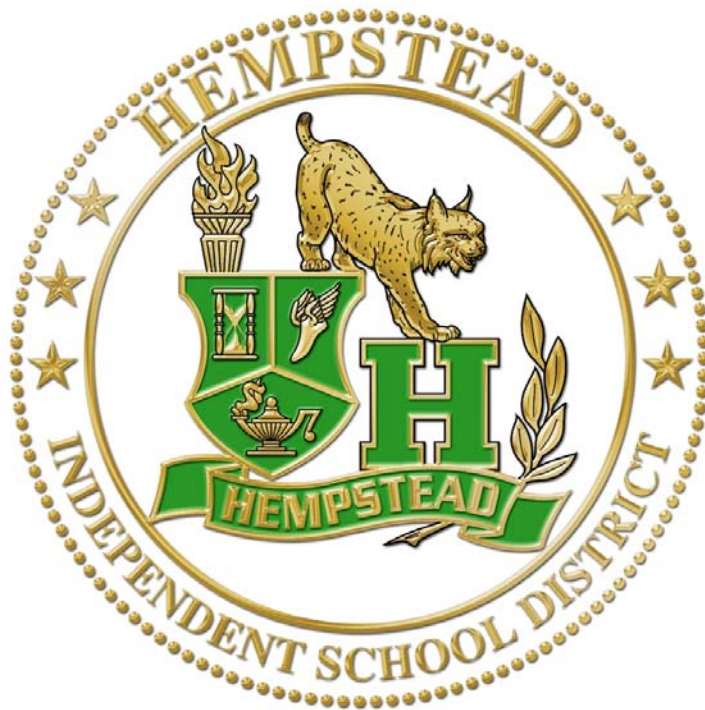


Hempstead

Independent School District



*Title I District
Parental Involvement
Policy
2007 - 2008*

HEMPSTEAD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

TITLE I DISTRICT PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY

PART I. DISTRICT EXPECTATIONS

1. The Hempstead Independent School District will implement the following statutory requirements:
 - The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I programs. Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
 - The school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the Title I requirements, and include, as a component, a school-parent compact.
 - The school district will incorporate this district-wide parental involvement policy into its district plan.
 - In carrying out the Title I parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents with children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
 - If the district plan for Title I is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan before the school board and/or district site-base committee.
 - The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools. (Only applicable for districts with Title I allocations greater than \$500,000.)
 - The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

2. Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including and ensuring the following:
 - that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
 - that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
 - that parents are partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education; and
 - the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.

PART II. THE LAW

The purpose of Title I is to improve the basic programs of the Hempstead Independent School District, and provide opportunities for children to acquire the knowledge and skills contained in the state content standards (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills – TEKS), and to meet the state performance standards (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills – TAKS). The most recent law that Affects Title I is the No Child Left Behind Act (Public Law 107-110). The law requires:

- that school districts have a written policy regarding parental involvement;
- that parents be involved in the design, operation, and evaluation of Title I;
- that parents be consulted about home/school activities and be trained to help their children; and
- that whenever possible, activities should be presented in the language spoken by the majority of the Title I parents.

PART III. DISTRICT PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT COMPONENTS

1. The Hempstead Independent School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district parental involvement plan:
 - hold parent meetings on Title I regulations;
 - meet with campus site-based committees to develop campus-parent involvement policies;
 - meet with district-site based committee to develop district level parent involvement policies;
 - send surveys out to parents in order to get parent feedback in developing as well as evaluating policies; and
 - conduct an annual evaluation of parent involvement policies.
2. The Hempstead Independent School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
 - hold individual parent conferences on student needs and discuss prior TAKS test results as well as class schedules and benchmark results;
 - have TEKS objective review classes;
 - provide information which parents can use to help their children; and
 - provide report cards, progress reports, and newsletters on a regular basis.
3. The Hempstead Independent School District will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

- A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
- the state's academic content standards;
 - the state's student academic achievement standards;
 - the state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments;
 - the requirements of Title I;
 - how to monitor their child's progress; and
 - how to work with educators.
- B. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, on how to reach out to communicate and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:
- developing Parent Involvement Policies;
 - providing a parent liaison; and
 - staff development regarding the cultural diversity within the school district
- C. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Met Head Start, Reading First, 21st Century Grant, and other programs that encourage and support parents in fully participating in the education of their child(ren) by:
- Parent Teacher Organization (PTO);
 - booster clubs for various campus organizations;
 - volunteer programs and field trips;
 - offer adult education classes when feasible;
 - campus open house;
 - hold a flexible number of parent involvement meetings at varied times;
 - assembly programs, concerts/plays, and awards and installation ceremonies; and
 - campus and district site-based decision making committee meetings.
- D. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that Title I information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:
- parent notification letter(s) are sent home with students or mailed in a timely manner;
 - parent notifications will be sent in a language understandable to parents; and
 - an interpreter will be provided for our Spanish speaking parents as requested.
4. The Hempstead Independent School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under Title I with parents regarding the following programs:

- Reading First - provide two meetings annually for parents of elementary students to learn about the reading program and ways they can help their children; and
 - provide early childhood screening in order to identify students with disabilities between the ages of three to five who may receive services in the district.
5. The Hempstead Independent School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers for greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, has limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and revise its parental involvement policies.

An annual evaluation will be conducted for the effectiveness of parent involvement. The first step will be to develop and send out a parent survey. The survey will be provided in English as well as Spanish. The results of the survey will be tallied. The results will then be shared with the campuses as well as the district site-based committee. Recommendations will be considered and discussed so that changes can be made to meet the needs of the district and campuses. The survey will be developed and tallied by the Special Programs Coordinator. Parent input will be important in meeting the needs of the district.

Parents are encouraged to contact the campus administrator and/or their child's teacher(s) if they have any questions or concerns about the instructional program. Usually student or parent concerns or complaints can be addressed, simply, by a phone call or a scheduled conference with the teacher.

For those concerns or complaints that cannot be handled so easily, the district has adopted a standard complaint policy, which may be located in the district policy manual, FNG (LOCAL). The Board encourages students and parents to discuss their concerns and complaints through informal conferences with the appropriate teacher, principal, or other campus administrator. Concerns should be expressed as soon as possible to allow early resolution at the lowest possible administrative level. You may review policies at your convenience by visiting the District's Website at www.hempstead.isd.esc4.net/ and clicking on Board of Trustees, scrolling down to the bottom of the page to Board Resources, and clicking on Board Policy.

PART IV. DISCRETIONARY COMPONENTS

Other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents, may choose to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's' academic achievements are:

- Involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.

- Provide necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training.
- Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and childcare costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
- Train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.
- Arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school.
- Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement.
- Establish a district parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs.
- Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities.
- Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Section 1118 as parents may request.

PART V. CONCLUSION

The district recognizes that neither the home or the school can do the job alone, for us to accomplish our mission of providing all students a quality education; parents must first be treated as stakeholders and actively involved in their child's education. This Parent Involvement Policy is intended to help you, as a parent, make the fullest contribution to your child's success in school.