

Stewart Elementary School

Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2019-20

Families and school must join together to form a lasting partnership that will direct the efforts of both parties toward the education of children. Recognizing that parents are the child's first teachers, and that schools should continue to enhance the education process, Stewart Elementary School is committed to developing a partnership with parents which will establish an environment where parents feel welcome and needed, and are encouraged to actively participate in the education of their children.

The Stewart Elementary Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy is to be fulfilled in the following manner:

- A. Parents will be notified regarding their child's participation in the Title I Program. Parents will receive a copy of the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy.
- B. Early in the school year, parents will be invited to Project Discover to learn and ask questions about the school, teachers, curriculum, assessments, State standards, procedures, and to be presented a general overview of the Title I program.
- C. Title I Parents will also be invited to an annual meeting where they will be given an opportunity to learn more details about the Title I Program, to meet the Title I staff, to receive information, and to ask questions. Information regarding Title I testing and qualifications to enter the program will be explained.
- D. Efforts will be made to assist parents in understanding Title I testing, State and local assessments, ways to monitor their child's progress by identifying specific strengths and needs, and working with school staff to improve achievement.
- E. A Parent-School Compact, designed by Title I staff and parents will describe how families, the Title I staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improving student achievement. This compact will be explained and given to parents during the annual Title I meeting or parent conferences.
- F. Families will be invited to attend at least two Title I parent/teacher conferences per year.
- G. Parents will receive timely information about Title I family meetings, and other Title I activities held throughout the year.
- H. There will be opportunities for parents to share concerns and offer suggestions for the continued improvement of Stewart Elementary School's Title I Program through additional Title I meetings and surveys.
- I. Title I activities held throughout the year will provide an opportunity for the families to observe the caring efforts of various Stewart staff to help the families learn how to be actively involved in their child's learning.

- J. Title I parents are invited to serve on the Title I Parent Advisory Board made up of administrators, teachers and parents. This Board is designed to guide in the development of a stronger Title I program in which students' needs are met. Members of this Board will represent the entire Title I Parent Council and will plan, review, and offer suggestions for the Parent and Family Engagement Guidelines each year.
- K. Stewart School will be open and inviting to parents and families. Parents are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance are sought. Capitalizing on the expertise and skills of the parents strengthens the family, school and community partnership.
- L. Parent and Family Engagement events will be held several times throughout the school year. These events will focus on parent trainings, the sharing of instructional strategies, explanations of curriculum and State academic standards, and opportunities for families to participate in learning activities together. These events will be held at various times of the school year and will be offered at various times of the day in order to accommodate families.
- M. Efforts to maintain communication between home and school will be regular, two-way and meaningful. Effective communication requires school-initiated contact with the parent and parent-initiated contact with the school where both parties provide vital information about a child's strengths, challenges, and accomplishments. Phone calls, notes, and conferences/meetings will be opportunities for this communication.
- N. Schools and parents will cultivate relationships with additional members of the community in order to promote and effectively increase educational opportunities for children. Together, parents, educators and community members will join efforts toward identifying and promoting community resources and innovative programs for strengthening schools, families, and student learning.
- O. Parents are provided with individualized suggestions and materials to help their children become stronger learners. To help enhance this type of parental engagement, materials are made available throughout the year in the Title I Parent Resource Center, at Title I parent and Family engagement events, and through ongoing collaboration with parents. Information will be sent home to parents regarding how to obtain these materials and parents are encouraged to contact the school if more information is needed.
- P. Information relating to programs, meetings, and activities will be sent to participating families in a format, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents and family members can understand.

Full realization of the partnership will be achieved through the on-going commitment and active participation by both home and school.