



Hardin Independent School District



Hardin Independent School District Parent/Family Engagement Policy

Hardin Independent School District believes that all parents (including those who are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities, have limited English, have limited literacy, are of any racial or ethnic minority background) are partners with teachers and other staff in the education of their children. When parents are involved in the education of their children, the attitudes, behaviors, and achievement of students are positively enhanced.

Since parents and families provide the primary educational environment for children, parents are vital and necessary partners with the educational communities throughout their children's school career. Hardin ISD, in collaboration with parents, teachers, students and administrators, will develop and promote strategies that enhance parental involvement and reflect the needs of students, parents and families.

In order to enhance parental involvement, six essential elements will be promoted:

- 1. Communication between home and school is regular, two-way and meaningful.** Effective communication requires school-initiated contact with the parent and parent-initiated with the school where important information about a child's strengths, challenges and accomplishments is shared. Both school and parents must be aware of and address issues such as cultural diversity, language differences and special needs. Appropriate steps will be taken to allow clear communication between all involved.
- 2. Responsible parenting is promoted and supported.** Recognizing that the family plays a key role in a child's educational environment, school personnel will support positive parenting by linking parents to community programs and resources that provide needed support services.
- 3. Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning.** Student achievement increases when parents are actively involved in the learning process. Schools will provide opportunities for parents to learn effective ways to support their child's educational needs. This will include information on the impact of punctuality and regular attendance on a student's success in school.
- 4. Parents are welcomed as volunteers in schools.** Since parent volunteers are essential for advancing student achievement, parents will be welcomed and invited to volunteer at all campus levels. Volunteer opportunities will capitalize on the expertise, interests and skills of parents, and have a direct connection to school and district goals.
- 5. Parents are full partners in the decisions affecting their children and families.** Parents and educators have a responsibility to make informed decisions related to all aspects of a child's education. Schools will encourage parent participation in decision making for all students. The role of parents in decision making will be continually evaluated, refined and expanded at both the campus and district level. Parents and staff will meet during the first semester of school to formally evaluate the effectiveness of the parent involvement policy.
- 6. Parent, school and community collaborate in order to enhance student learning, strengthen families and improve schools.** Parents, educators and community members will work together in order to promote and increase educational opportunities for children. By working together, gains will be made in providing all students equal access to quality schools and improving student academic success. This collaboration will allow all involved to provide input and offer resources to meet these goals.
- 7. Funding to support parent involvement activities may come from Title I and Title IV federal funds.**

The Hardin Independent School District, as an equal opportunity educational provider and employer, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in educational programs or activities that it operates or in employment decisions.