

District Family Engagement Plan and Parent Involvement Policy Gause ISD

Gause ISD believes every child should have the opportunity to attain his/her full potential. Therefore, Gause ISD will maximize its resources to the extent reasonable and available to enable each child to have the opportunity to become a successful learner. A key resource is its people: administrators, teachers, school staff, parents, and community members. We will work together to establish effective partnerships; together everyone achieves more. School and home must work together to realize higher student achievement. Ongoing, two-way, meaningful communication will occur to facilitate mutual understanding and to stimulate student success.

Gause ISD will provide to all parents the grade level goals for its students. Gause ISD will also publish the STAAR testing schedule and assessment goals. Those students that need extra assistance will have access to programs that will give them opportunity to meet these goals.

Gause ISD will make every effort to include parents in the development, evaluation, and revision of the Parental Involvement Policy as it pertains to the Title I Program. The school-parent compact will describe the responsibilities of key stakeholders and useful channels of communication. The goal of our parental involvement program is student success.

The District Education Improvement Committee which consists of 2 parents, 2 community members, 6 teachers and staff, 1 principal and the superintendents' designee will develop and revise Gause ISD's Parental Involvement Policy.

Gause ISD will hold an annual meeting by the second six weeks of the new school year for all parents. At that meeting the Title I program will be described, the Parental Involvement Policy will be distributed, and opportunities for parental participation will be explained. Parent volunteers will be recruited to serve on the district advisory committee.

There will be 2 opportunities to attend the annual meeting for the convenience of parents. Translators will be present at each meeting. Parents will be informed about the meeting in the newspaper and notices sent home with students.

Since the goal of Gause ISD is student success, the expectations for school performance, individual student assessments, and grade level curriculum will be provided in a format parents can understand.

Parents will be advised that the effectiveness of the Parent Involvement program will be evaluated annually and the policy will be revised to meet the needs of the students, school, parents, and community.

Gause ISD values the partnership of the parents in their children's education. There are many ways parents can make significant contributions to student success both at home and by volunteering at the school. Student achievement is the result of effective home-school-community partnerships.

Annually, Gause ISD will assess the needs of the parents and children in the school community using a variety of tools including a survey or questionnaire. The findings will be used to revise the district programs to meet the current needs. Workshops or other training will be made available to educators and parents to address these needs. Parents will be notified about training opportunities.

Gause ISD will communicate with parents on a regular basis. Newsletters will be distributed at least 5 times a year. Important information will be provided in the student handbook, the school-parent compact, and on the district website. Frequent notices about student performance will be sent home with children, or provided by phone calls, emails, conferences, and/or in-home visits. In so far as possible all communication will be provided in a language and format the parents can understand. Parents are encouraged to contact the school or the child's teacher when questions or problems arise.

Gause ISD will work with its District Advisory Committee to evaluate the effectiveness of the parental involvement program. Surveys, classroom observation, assessment data, and other resources will be used to determine the needs and develop revised strategies for student success. Parental input will be sought. Revisions to the Parental Involvement Policy as it pertains to the Title I Program will be communicated to the parents.

Gause ISD is required to set aside at least 1% of its Title I funds for the purpose of parental involvement. Those funds will be divided among all Title I campuses. The campus principal will consult with the Campus Advisory Committee about allowable uses of the funds. The campus principal will then authorize the use of the funds designated for parental involvement.

Gause ISD is committed to the success of students. We will work together with parents to monitor the effectiveness of our parental involvement program as related to the Title I and to provide excellence in education. This policy will be promoted by the administrators, principals, and other school staff as we seek active participation by our parents.

Other ways we will communicate with parents include parent teacher conferences, mail distribution, student backpack distribution (some things go home daily in backpacks, other things go home weekly), and through our new Gause ISD smartphone app. Through the app, parents will be able to access and receive alerts at their discretion on things such as school cancellations, schedule changes, calendar updates, grade alerts, attendance alerts, and cafeteria charges, among other things.

Finally, we have several goals to help us improve our family engagement:

1. Develop a lasting partnership between our school, families, community, (and even our few small business) by: involving families, students, businesses and community partners to help identify needs; sharing information with families, community members and staff to recruit, develop, maintain, evaluate and recognize outstanding community partnerships; applying community service values and creating more educational opportunities that enrich students' and families' lives, promote real world opportunities

and help train leaders; distributing information about community resources to teachers and families; involving parents in the development of the District Improvement Plan and in the annual evaluation of the District Parent Involvement Policy.

2. Creating strong communication between the home and the school by:
 - a. Fostering effective communication between school/home through information sent home in notes, school calendars, and regular newsletters, personal contact and the use of technology such as email, websites, voice messages, automated calls, social media, and more.
 - b. Sending information to parents in the language most commonly used at home.
 - c. Showing respect to families by responding quickly to questions, calls, emails and/or texts.
 - d. Providing timely information about a student's progress.
3. Encouraging teachers to provide families help that supports learning at home by:
 - a. Sharing information on the importance of the family's role in learning.
 - b. Providing resources and training to families on activities for learning at home.
 - c. Providing lists on how to contact campus, district and community resources, when needed.
 - d. Providing information and help to families when the student is struggling academically.
4. Establishing strong relationships between school and home by:
 - a. Having opportunities for parents, family members, students and schools to work together.
 - b. Coordinating with parents and guardians to offer family-friendly events at schools and other locations.
 - c. Providing district support to teachers as they implement the following:
 1. Parent involvement activities and events for families at a variety of times and places.
 2. Annual meetings school to discuss and review campus services along with a review of the state's academic subject and achievement standards.
 3. Yearly training to faculty and staff to enhance family engagement.
 4. Increasing the number of families involved in their children's education each year.