

# Grapevine MS Parent and Family Engagement Policy

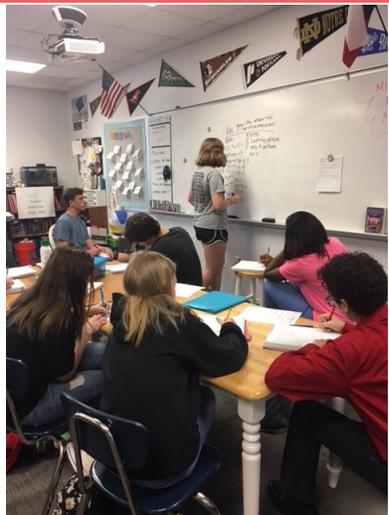


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## Purpose of the Policy

Because school age children spend 70% of their waking hours (including weekends and holidays) outside of school, parental involvement and engagement is essential to the success of children in school. While volunteering at school is beneficial, and attending parent-teacher conferences, school events, and parent involvement activities are important, “the most significant type of involvement is what parents do at home. By monitoring, supporting and advocating, parents can be engaged in ways that ensure that their children have every opportunity for success.” Involvement encompasses: setting goals with children and fostering achievement of those goals, accessing and using children’s academic scores to ensure they’re on track, frequently viewing the parent portal, developing a relationship with children’s teachers and keeping in touch with them often, and advocating for improvements in the school building and with local, state, and federal officials to ensure schools have the resources they need to provide a world class education to every student.”



## Parental Involvement Research

Extensive research demonstrates “a positive and convincing relationship between family involvement and benefits for students, including improved academic achievement. This relationship holds across families of all economic, racial/ethnic, and educational backgrounds and for students at all ages.

The benefits for students include: higher grade point averages and scores on standardized tests or rating scales, enrollment in more challenging, academic programs, more classes passed and credits earned, better attendance, improved behavior at home and at school, and better social skills and adaptation to school.

## Ways to be Involved and Engaged in our Schools

Grapevine Middle School has a parent liaison that is a great resource for all parents. Our liaison not only supports the front office staff but holds valuable meetings throughout the school day including language classes, understanding Skyward access, computer classes, and organizes parents with various volunteer opportunities, including parents that want to be tutors. This parent liaison is a position that is funded through our Title 1 funds and is a great contact for all parents to support GMS students.

With our personalized programs, parents can volunteer to be part of our STEM boosters, our AVID boosters, our Athletic boosters, or part of our PTA, There is never a shortage of opportunities to support the students of Grapevine Middle School.



## Development of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

According to the Every Student Succeeds Act, "Each local education agency (LEA) shall develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy." Additionally, each school served under Title I shall "jointly develop with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy, agreed on by such parents." Further, each school shall "involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy." This brochure is our way of informing parents of our family engagement policies.

## Title I Annual Meetings

Each school served under Title I shall "convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under Title I and to explain the requirements of Title I, and the right of the parents to be involved."

## School-Parent Compacts

Each school served under Title I shall "jointly develop with parents for all children served under this part a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards."

## Districtwide Program Plan

Each LEA shall involve parents and family members in jointly developing the LEA plan (i.e. district improvement plan). Further, each school served under Title I shall "involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the joint development of the school-wide program plan." Parent representatives serve on our Educational Improvement Council (EIC) and assist in the development of the district improvement plan.

