

# Emerson Elementary School Parental Involvement Policy

## **I. Statement of Purpose**

Emerson Elementary is committed to the goal of providing the highest quality education to prepare our students for academic, emotional and social success. We want to establish a strong commitment to partnerships with parents and with the community. Everyone gains if school and home work together to promote high achievement for our children. Parents play an extremely important role as the child's first teacher. Parental involvement with your child and school is critical to a student's success every step along the way. We recognize that some students may need the extra assistance available through the Title I Program to reach grade level goals. Emerson Elementary School intends to include parents in all aspects of the Title I Program. The goal is that the school-home partnership will help all students in our school succeed.

## **II. Parental Involvement in Developing the Policy**

Parents, members of the community and school staff will meet to discuss the implementation of the parental involvement policy. Emerson Elementary School will actively recruit participation through various avenues of publicity, such as newsletters, teacher input and other parent recommendations. The Campus Education Improvement Plan (CEIC) and Parent Teacher Association (PTA) will serve as parent advisory committees.

## **III. Annual Meetings for Title I Parents**

Emerson Elementary School will hold meetings for parents during each school year. Parents will be informed of Title I guidelines and the variations from the previous year's program. Copies of the campus 2011-2012 parent involvement policy will be distributed. Parents will be encouraged to become involved in the revising and updating the policy as deemed necessary. We will use the results of the evaluation of parent surveys in determining strategies for school improvement in revising the parental involvement policy at the campus level. The meetings will be held at convenient times and locations. Participation will be encouraged through notification in parent newsletters, school web page, written notices, Parent Link communication system and school marquee.

## **IV. School - Parent Compacts**

In accordance with Title I regulations, each school must develop a parent-student compact with the parents of students participating in the program. The compact will enable the school and parents to share the responsibility for student performance and success. The compact will explain how students, parents and staff will share the responsibility for promoting student achievement. Members of the school's CEIC and PTA will be consulted in the design and implementation of the compact. All parents will

be given a copy of the compact detailing the responsibilities that teachers, parents and students have in helping students accomplish their goals. Parents, teachers, administrators and students will sign the compact. Parents will be encouraged to discuss the contents of the compact with their child.

## V. **Types of Parent Involvement**

In order to meet the needs of all stakeholders, parents and community members will be involved in the development of the Emerson Campus Improvement Plan. The Campus Improvement Plan will be available online at the campus website [www.midlandisd.net/emerson](http://www.midlandisd.net/emerson). Hard copies will be available upon request in the office. Parental involvement activities will be fully integrated into the Campus Improvement Plan process for academic accountability. Elements of this plan will include:

1. **Regular Communication with Parents:** In order to build consistent and effective communication between the home and the school, regular communication will include:

- School Newsletter
- School Calendar
- Parent and Student Handbook
- Special Event Notices
- Student "Daily Folder"
- Progress Reports
- Report Cards
- Emerson School-Parent Compact
- PTA Meetings/Programs
- CEIC Meetings
- District, Campus and Teacher Websites
- E-mails
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- School Assemblies
- Parent Link

2. **Parent Information and Training Nights:** These are opportunities to help parents develop skills to use at home to support their children's academic efforts and social development. They provide parents with techniques and strategies they may utilize to improve their children's academic success and assist with learning at home. Some of these activities may include:

- Math & Science Night
- Family Reading Night
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Parent Orientation
- Meet The Teacher Night
- K-2 Reading Tips for Parents
- Informational Grade Level Evening Meetings with Parents
- PTA Parent Meetings
- Donuts with Dad
- Muffins with Mom
- Annual Title I Parent Meeting
- Parent Meetings with Counselor
- READ 180/SYSTEM 44 Informational Parent Meeting

3. **Parent Volunteer Opportunities:** Emerson Elementary will provide multiple opportunities for parents who would like to volunteer in the school. Parents are always welcome to come in to the school to be a part of routine daily activities and/or special events. A meeting will be held at the beginning of each year to

provide an orientation for parents who wish to volunteer in the school. Examples of parent volunteer opportunities are:

- Teacher Assistant
- Mentor
- Take Home Projects
- Special Events (e.g. Book Fairs, Reading Rodeo; Chili Supper; Family Reading Night)
- Field Trip Chaperones (with completed Criminal History Check)
- Volunteer in Support Services (library, office, etc.)
- After School Programs

## **VI. Translation Services**

Spanish translation services will be provided. Written communication from school to home can be provided in Spanish and English.

## **VII. Matching Programs to the Needs of Our Community**

The community will be consulted in the design and implementation of Title I Program. Student needs will be assessed through questionnaires and parental suggestions targeted at creating a successful school environment. Our school will welcome and promote parental involvement suggestions from parents. The PTA will generate ideas to involve parents in the success of our students. Parent workshops and programs will be tailored to meet the unique student and parent needs of our stakeholders and the community. Parents will be informed of involvement activities through the newsletters and reminder notices. Parents may call our local school office, or email administration at any time to express an interest or make suggestion about workshops that could be offered.

## **VIII. Evaluation**

Parents will be asked to give input about the effectiveness of the Title I Parental Involvement Program and offer suggestions for improvement. The evaluation procedure will include assessment of successes in the parent involvement policy, as well as, recommendations for improvement in emergent areas. Our school will conduct an ongoing assessment of parent involvement initiatives. These assessment opportunities will allow the school to evaluate the effectiveness of parent involvement initiatives and the level of responsiveness to parents' concerns. Examples of assessment opportunities that would be appropriate are:

- Responses to the annual parent surveys
- Increase in the number of parents involved in school activities
- Signed School-Parent Compacts
- Attendance at parent teacher conferences
- Attendance at learning experiences for parents
- Professional development for staff on working effectively with parents