

**Parent and Family Engagement Policy
Lamar Elementary School
Pampa, Texas**

Statement of Purpose

Lamar Elementary School is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child. High achievement is a goal for all children at Lamar. To attain this high goal, the school and home must work together. Parents and families play an important role as the children's first teachers. Their support for their children and for the school is critical to the children's success.

Grade level goals for the students of Lamar Elementary are the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. These are available for parents and families online. Some children may need extra assistance available through the Title I program, as well as other programs, to reach these goals. Parents, families, teachers, and students all have a part in working toward high achievement.

Lamar staff provide high quality instruction. Information regarding the professional qualifications of the students' classroom teachers is available to parents and families in the campus office as well as in the district administration building HR office.

Assessments tell parents, families and teachers if the students are meeting the body of knowledge and skills that the state has established. In grades three through five the state assessments are called STAAR. Many other assessments are used at Lamar.

The Every Student Success Act requires that parents and families of children who receive Title I services must be involved in the decisions regarding how these funds are allotted for parent and family involvement activities.

Parent and Family Involvement in Developing the Policy

Parent and family members will have an opportunity to help develop the policy.

Annual Meetings for Title I Parents and Families

Annually Lamar Elementary School has meetings to inform parents and families of their school's participation in the Title I program and the requirements, as well as the parents' and families right to be involved.

At these meetings, which are held at times that are convenient for families, information about the school's performance, students' individual assessments, the school curriculum, and other important information is provided. Opportunities for volunteering, special classes for families such as GED and ESL, training, and programs given by students are presented. Coordination with Head Start as well as other preschool programs is a campus goal. Parents and families are invited to be a part of the annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy. The results of the evaluation are used to determine strategies for school improvement. The commitment of family involvement has been approved by the Pampa ISD Board of Trustees. The evaluation of the Title I program includes how parent and family involvement is increasing and addresses barriers to parental and family participation that need to be overcome.

Lamar Elementary Title I Family Compact

Since Lamar Elementary School is committed to providing high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment, a school-family compact is developed jointly by staff, parents and families. The compact describes the responsibilities of the school and the families to improve student performance and the means by which to do so. Student responsibilities are also described. The importance of good communication between the school and the home is emphasized and procedures such as conferences, emails, social media and contact information are included.

Matching Programs to the Needs of Our Community

Each year the campus will assess the needs of families and children through a variety of measures including surveys, questionnaires, and parent/family interviews so that the Title I program can meet the needs of the community. Special programs and workshops are designed to address these needs. Parents and families may call the district office at 669-4700 or the campus at 669-4880 to express interests or to make suggestions.

Staff/Family Communications

Annual parent/family/teacher conferences are an important feature in communications at Lamar Elementary. Children also take home Thursday folders which contain important information regarding academics, special announcements, and discipline reports. The student handbook is made available at the beginning of the school year. Parents and families are encouraged to call their child's teachers when they are concerned about a problem. Lamar also has a counselor and a nurse who can assist families. Weekly emails are also provided for those signed up through the Lamar website. Notices sent home will have both English and Spanish.

Evaluation

The committee will review and evaluate all aspects of the parent and family engagement program. Parents and families will be surveyed about the effectiveness of the program and offer suggestions for improvement. The evaluation procedure will include assessment of successes in the Parent and Family Engagement Policy as well as recommendations for improvement in emergent areas.