

# TITLE 1 PARENT ENGAGEMENT POLICY

## TERRELL HIGH SCHOOL

### 2015-2016

Terrell High School recognizes the importance of the role parents play in educating children and increasing academic performance. Research indicates that children's learning capacity greatly increases when parents are supported by the school and engaged in their children's curricula studies. In order to guarantee student success, partnerships among schools and parents are vital. Prior to the first day of school, parents meet with the principal to discuss expectations and concerns for the ensuing school year. Parents are given copies of the student handbook and policies relating to school governance. They are informed about local school policies and requirements of the state and federal agencies monitoring school improvement. Opportunities are given for parents to participate on school committees such as the Title 1, Parent Involvement, Leadership, School Improvement, School Climate and School Safety. At Terrell High School, we recognize that parents are their children's primary teachers, and their support is critical in our efforts to provide a quality education to the children. In order to maximize the success of our students, the following programs are planned to involve parents.

At Terrell High School, one of the primary programs occurs at the beginning of the school year to help establish a relationship between parents and teachers. Orientation Day (July) is held each year prior to the beginning of school for parents to meet their children's teachers. This is the first step in forming communication channels and building trust and collaborative relationships among teachers, parents, and the community. These programs were planned in response to parent input. Parent input is important and continues to be a part of the planning and development of new and existing programs.

#### **Freshman Orientation: (July) (Completed July 28, 2015)**

Students and parents tour the school and follow the student's academic class schedule as part of the transition plan for ninth graders. Parents and students are provided opportunities to gain insight into the expectations of faculty and administration for freshmen. Topics such as materials for classes, the code of conduct, and expectations for academic performance are discussed. Explanations of courses students should be prepared to take for college or other post-secondary education options are given. Information is shared about program options, graduation requirements, test schedules, test-out option, post-secondary options and how to plan for them.

#### **Title 1 Staff Orientation: (August) (Annual Title I Meeting) August 27, 2015**

Topics addressed are the value and utility of the contributions of parents and how to reach out to communicate with and work with parents as equal partners to build ties between home and school, strategies to improve how teachers, parents, and community members can work together to make improvements, explain what it means to be a Title 1 school and how we became a school-wide Title 1 school, address Title 1 funds to support parents' and students' needs and discuss the goals set for this year so the staff is familiar with its part in helping the school attain the goals.

### **Community Resource Fairs (September – April)**

Educational workshops will be scheduled throughout the school year with topics such as Parent Portal Access, computer literacy, financial literacy, violence prevention, healthy living, preparation for the Georgia Milestone Test, and preparation for post-secondary options.

### **Title 1 Orientation and Curriculum Nights: (September)**

Parents will receive an orientation to the Title 1 school-wide program and the partners will be informed of their school's participation under Title 1. The No Child Left Behind act and the Parent-Student-Teacher Compact including the parents' responsibility for supporting their child's learning will be addressed. Parents will be invited to use the resources available in the Parent Center. An explanation and description of the school's curriculum, mission statement, and other school/classroom policies will be discussed. Discuss Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS) Implementation Academic assessments and the proficiency levels that students are expected to meet will be discussed. A parent involvement workshop survey will be given to the parents for them to complete and return to their child's teacher. Agenda Books: Each student in Grades 6-12 receives an agenda book to help parents know what assignments are due. Included in the book are the parent-student-teacher compact and student handbook. The agenda book provides teachers and parents with a means of daily communication about academic and behavior issues. Parent Center: a staffed resource center that provides activities and information for parents. It is open for parents to use daily and during after school programs

### **Grandparent's Day – (October)**

Breakfast is served and the group discusses the critical role of grandparents in education. Grandparents shadow their grandchildren throughout the school day and make recommendations for school improvement.

### **Career Night (November)**

Invite parents and business partners to tour the Career Technology and Agricultural Education Program; provide evening classes for adults to develop technological skills and increase parents knowledge and skills to better assist students with homework; and support families' efforts to improve the school and community by inviting local banks and businesses to talk with families about their services, loan programs, and employment opportunities.

### **Student Financial Aid Workshop (January)**

Parents and twelfth-grade students are given opportunities to meet with representatives from various colleges and universities to discuss career opportunities. Information concerning scholarships and financial assistance programs is discussed and distributed.

### **Expectation Nights: (May) [one night per grade level]**

This program is offered in the spring to provide information to parents about the expectations of their children's rising grade level and parents' responsibility for supporting their children's learning. Interpretation of test scores such as Georgia Milestone Assessments, ACT and SAT results are provided as well.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences: (November, February and April)**

The school calendar will reflect specific dates after each grading period for parent conferences.

**Open House/PTO: (August, November, January, and March) (July 28, 2015)**

Open House and Parent-Teacher Conferences inform parents of school reforms, expectations, and progress of meeting local and state goals. Additionally, parents are provided information about Title I programs, the academic progress of their children, recruit parent involvement volunteers, the academic assessments used and the proficiency level of their children. Parents may conference with teachers after picking up progress reports or report cards. Teachers share information on standards and exhibits of students' work.

**Parent and Student Appreciation Night (November and March)**

It is vital to build close personal relationships between families and staff through rewarding parent participation, which promote academic excellence and perfect attendance of the child. The more parents and teachers work together, the better children adjust to school and can integrate the separate experiences of home and school.

At the end each event and at the end of the year, a survey is given to parents. The data is collected and submitted to our local educational agency (LEA). Any unsatisfactory comments are attached to the School Plan. In addition, parents on the local school advisory team will review the parents' comments and assist in addressing the suggestions and concerns on the survey.

Terrell High School uses communication methods such as newsletters, fliers, the school website, social media, the local newspaper, and the telephone to provide parents with timely information about Title 1 programs and the academic progress of the students. The Terrell High School News Letter is an informative letter for parents. The newsletter is one method by which we share information about student achievement, various school auxiliaries, events, summaries of PTO meetings, and any programs or concerns that parents need to know about. Information about school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to parents in a practical format and in a language the parents can understand.