

Sweeny High School

Parent Involvement Policy

Sweeny High School recognizes that a critical part of effective schooling is parental involvement. The school and the home cannot be looked at in isolation from one another; families and schools need to collaborate to help children adhere to the responsibilities of being successful students.

Research shows that involvement by parents as partners in their children's education contributes greatly to student achievement and conduct.

1. Families provide the primary educational environment. An educational environment is a quiet, positive place at home where your child can complete homework.
2. Parent involvement in their children's education improves student achievement.
3. Parent involvement in their children's education is more important to student success than family income or education.
4. Parent involvement with the school is most effect when it is supportive long-lasting and well planned.
5. The benefits of parent involvement for students are not limited to early childhood or the elementary grades; positive benefits continue on through high school and college.
6. Parents must be involved in supporting their children's education at home, and to ensure the quality of schools in serving the community, parents must be involved at all levels in schools.

The staff of Sweeny High School believes that the education of its students is a responsibility shared with parents. The school's primary responsibility shall be to provide a high-quality curriculum and instructional program in a supportive and effective learning environment that enable all students to meet the academic expectations.

Parents shall have the responsibility and opportunity to work with the school in a mutually supportive and respectful partnership with the goal of helping their children succeed in school.

*Parent refers to any caregiver who has responsibility for the caring for a child including parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, foster parents, stepparents, older siblings. Etc.

Parent Involvement Policy

Parent involvement as described in this policy shall be developed with the assistance of parents, agreed to by parent, incorporated in the school's Campus Improvement Plan.

All parents are invited and encouraged to attend an annual meeting which shall be held in the fall (i.e. Open House) at a time and date that is convenient for the parent community. Parents will be notified about open house via school Skylert system.

Each year parents shall be invited to join and attend a number of regularly scheduled meetings (such as Campus Planning Committee, Freshmen Orientation, Open House, etc.) that are planned at times convenient for their participation. The goal of these meetings is to keep parents informed regarding the progress of students in the core academic program, intervention programs and other issues pertaining to Sweeny High School. Through these meetings, parents will be involved, on an on-going basis, in the planning, review and improvement of programs, including the Parent Involvement Policy and school plan.

The principal and school staff shall provide timely information about curriculum, local and state assessment results, the proficiency level students are expected to meet, the status of the school's Adequate Yearly Progress

(AYP) and funds received through State Compensatory Education (SCE). Parents will be informed, on an ongoing basis, about student support programs, classroom activities and school events.

Shared Responsibilities

The school staff and parents shall jointly develop a parent-school compact that explains how parents, students and school staff will share responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The compact shall be reviewed annually and modified as needed. The compact shall

- Be signed by all parties – parent, student, teacher(s) and principal and a copy given to the parent and student.
- Describe how the school staff will be responsible for providing a high-quality instructional program that enables all students to meet the State of Texas academic standards and for providing a safe, nurturing learning environment for all students.
- Explain how parents will be responsible for supporting their child's learning by monitoring attendance, homework, use of electronic devices and participating in decisions relating to the child's education.
- Describe how students will take responsibility for coming to school to work as learners.

Building Parent Involvement

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and community that will improve student achievement, the school shall –

Provide regularly scheduled informational meetings and workshops to address topics requested and needed by parents. To address the requirements in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Title I, the school shall enable parent to gain a better understanding of the following:

- State academic content standards and achievement goals all students are expected to meet.
- How to monitor their children's progress through interpreting state and local assessment reports and student progress reports.
- Strategies to use at home to support their child's academic achievement, such as monitoring the completion of homework and school assignments, etc.

School staff shall be educated, with the assistance of parents, in the value of parent contributions, and how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners in their children's education by using strategies to:

- Ensure the information related to school and parent programs, meetings, workshops, and other activities is sent in parent-friendly format and in a language parents understand.
- Implement and coordinate parent programs that build ties between parents and the school, such as opportunities to support the school through volunteering their time, and when appropriate, offer classroom/teacher support and after school activities such as tutoring.
- Become knowledgeable about parent's rights as specified in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Title I, Part A.

To further the goal of effective parent involvement, school staff will:

- Follow the Tenets of Educational Excellence:
 - Focus on the needs of each individual
 - Focus on learning
 - Treat others with respect
- Examine and adopt model parent involvement programs.
- Encourage and inform parents of the leadership roles available to effectively serve on the PTA, Campus Planning Committee or other available organizations.
- Organize a parent group (i.e. PTA) for the purpose of supporting parent involvement activities at the school and enhancing the leadership skills of parent in working with other parents.

Accessibility

The school, to the extent practical, shall provide parents with limited English proficiency opportunities to fully participate in school sponsored activities by using translation at all meetings and workshops and by sending written notices and reports in language, to the extent possible, that parents understand.