

## Stephenville Independent School District ~ Parental Involvement Policy ~ 2017-18



“The family is one of nature's masterpieces.” - George Santayana

Feelings of worth can flourish only in an atmosphere where individual differences are appreciated, mistakes are tolerated, communication is open, and rules are flexible -- the kind of atmosphere that is found in a nurturing family. - Virginia Satir

### **Parent and Family Involvement**

At Stephenville ISD, it is our mission to develop relationships and collaborate with our parents and guardians, along with our community resources to provide a robust academic learning environment. We desire to provide enriching opportunities that empower each and every student in preparation for our ever-changing society and global communities and economy. Our intentions are to welcome, involve, and encourage all parents and guardians at each campus to provide input and encouragement for their child’s maximized education and personal development.

*Increased involvement of parents and families often is cited as one of the most important ways to improve public schools. A variety of studies (Henderson & Berla, 1994) confirms that parent involvement makes an enormous impact on students' attitude, attendance, and academic achievement. Although some working and single parents may be unable to contribute to schools because of work commitments and time constraints, educators are discovering many additional ways that parents can help students and their schools. Some of these ways are dependent upon the school's desire to involve parents. To effect change, parents must find time to participate in their children's education while schools must provide the supports necessary for them to be involved. The resulting partnerships between parents and teachers will increase student achievement and promote better cooperation between home and school. Together these efforts will connect families and schools to help children succeed in school and in their future.*

*Joe D'Amico, co-host of NCREL's Rural Audio Journal. Excerpted from the Rural Audio Journal, volume 3, number 3, Families and Schools Together (North Central Regional Educational Laboratory, 1995).*

Stephenville Independent School District will:

1. Provide parents of participating children on Title I campuses the opportunity to be involved jointly in the development of the district plan and in the district's review process for the purpose of school improvement by (a) Having a district-level Federal Programs Director and Parental Involvement Liaison to provide assistance and support to each Title I campus in the area of family involvement.

(b) Annually reviewing and updating the district's policies and processes related to parental involvement. (c) Annually involving the SISD Site Based Decision-Making Team (SBDMT) which includes teachers, administrators, parents, and community partners in the review and revision of district parental involvement practices and policies. (d) Providing a Title I Parental Involvement Program link for parents and students on SISD website.

2. Seek to involve parents in an effective home-school partnership that will provide the best possible education for our students by: (a) Providing parent-teacher conferences.

i. Annually at the elementary and secondary Title I campuses (b) Sending frequent student progress reports to parents (c) Making phone calls and home-visits (d) Providing information flyers, district and school web pages, etc.

3. Provide professional development opportunities for Title I teachers and staff in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners.

4. Ensure that each Title I campus provides appropriate parent notification in these areas:

(a) Parents have the right to request certification/qualification information for their child's teacher. (b) We will have the option as an Innovative district to hire industry certified personnel to further develop our secondary and CTE/Elective programs (c) Identifying their child's participation in intervention programs (tutoring, summer school, etc.)

5. The school district will ensure that each of its Title I campuses conducts an annual Title I meeting to explain ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) requirements and the campus' implemented program and how this program will benefit the students at that campus.

6. Monitor information (attendance demographics, meeting types, meeting times, etc.) on parental involvement events at each campus to help ensure that barriers to effective family involvement are eliminated.

7. Reduce barriers for parents to participate in Parental Involvement events by:

(a) Providing school meetings at a variety of days and times (b) Providing childcare at Family Involvement events, as needed (c) Providing transportation, as needed

8. Advertise the family involvement events in a timely manner, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand by using multiple formats to advertise each meeting (for

example: meeting flyers, telephone reminders, school marquees, websites, and e-mail).

9. The Stephenville ISD will provide opportunities for parents to increase their own understanding of : (a) Academic standards: The district Parent Liaison will coordinate communication efforts between campuses and parents. The Parent Liaison will provide training for the teachers to assist them in preparing them how to help the parents help their children in the home.

Academic Activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Grade level orientation meetings
- Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and the Texas Assessment Program Informational Meetings (i.e. STAAR Nights)
- Using technology, interactive software programs, and communicating the goals of the SISD iChampion initiative for our student's benefit
- Parent and family resources
- Literacy materials and training
- Parent Newsletters (suggestions for parents communicated through our SISD website or campus newsletter, Social Media, etc.)
- Parent conferences
- Family Nights about relevant topics
- "Fish" Camp
- Orientation Nights
- Meet the Teacher or Open House events
- Financial Aid Seminars for College Preparation and Graduation Plans

(b) Parenting:

Parenting Activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Training to improve parent-to-student/ teacher-to-student/ teacher-to-parent communication
- PTO/PTA Organizations
- Parent input on developing training for teachers, principals, and other educators
- Train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents
- Training to help parents and students transition into adolescence
- Volunteer/Mentor(like Book Buddies)/Tutor Programs and Opportunities
- Musical (including Band and Choir concerts) and drama productions

- Veteran’s Day Program
- Seasonal Parties
- Student Art Shows, Student Work Displays and Performance Schedules
- Encourage/Recruit parents to serve on district and campus committees
- Training to support structure at home
- Other parent/family activities as identified to meet the needs of each campus
- Newsletters
- Grandparents’ Day
- School Messenger
- Campus and District Social Media Pages
- Parent Training Opportunities

10. Involve parents in the process of school review and improvement by:

(a) Provide Campus/District Report Card. (b) Providing a meeting to explain the Report Card. (c) Involving parents of participating children in the Site-Based Decision Making Team

11. Maintain and continually strengthen processes to:

(a) Review and update the Parent Involvement Policy as needed. (b) Review the results of annual campus parental involvement surveys. (c) Review district and campus family involvement event documentation to identify and eliminate barriers to effective family involvement. (d) Gather information from parents on how to improve the parent involvement activities.

12. Conduct an annual evaluation of the family involvement program

13. Establish and maintain a Stephenville ISD website to advertise upcoming meetings and to share information about district-wide events.

### **Resources**

Stephenville ISD Website [www.sville.us](http://www.sville.us)

Stephenville ISD Director of Instruction and Federal/Special Programs 2655 W. Overhill Drive Stephenville, TX 76401 254 968-7990

Stephenville ISD Parental Involvement Liaison 2655 W. Overhill Drive Stephenville, TX 76401 Shannel Landeros 254-434-7524 or 254-968-7990

Stephenville Community Services

- Cross Timbers Family Services (254) 965-5516 1794 N. Graham St. Stephenville, TX 76401
- United Way of Erath County (254) 965 4429 P.O. Box 1352 Stephenville, TX 76401  
ecuw@embarqmail.com

Title I Statewide School Support/Parental Involvement Initiative Region 16 Education Service Center 5800 Bell Street Amarillo, TX 79109 806 677-5166 [www.esc16.net](http://www.esc16.net)

Family Involvement Website [www.ed.gov/parents](http://www.ed.gov/parents)

*Stephenville ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, gender, national origin, religion, or disability in education programs, admissions/enrollment decisions or activities which it operates, as required by Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504.*

For more information on parental involvement or to volunteer, please contact your child's school or call 254 968-7990