

Hardin-Jefferson Independent School District
Parent and Family Engagement—Mission Statement

The mission of Hardin-Jefferson Independent School District (HJISD) is to establish a collaborative partnership between students, parents, teachers, staff, and administrators dedicated to the academic achievement and success of every student.

Parent and family engagement is a critical element that influences the academic achievement of our students. HJISD believes that a child’s education is a result of the combined efforts of the parent, the family, the student, and the school. When parents and families actively participate in their child’s education, kids are more successful in school.

Hardin-Jefferson Independent School District
Parent and Family Engagement Policy

I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

It is the goal of the Hardin-Jefferson Independent School District (HJISD) to have Title I, Part A, campuses and parents working as partners to increase student achievement and development. HJISD agrees to implement the following statutory requirement:

- HJISD will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A, programs, consistent with Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with Section 1118, HJISD will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of Section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- HJISD will incorporate the district-wide parent and family engagement policy into its LEA plan, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A, parent involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, HJISD and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of the parents with limited English proficiency, parent with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language understandable.
- If the HJISD plan for the Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- HJISD will involve the parents of children served in a Title I, Part A, schools in decisions about how 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- HJISD will be governed by the following statutory definition of parent involvement, and expects that its Title I, Part A school will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parent involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student’s academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

- 1. that parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;*
- 2. that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education;*
- 3. that parents are full partners in their child’s education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.*

II. HOW HJISD WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COMPONENTS

- HJISD will take the steps necessary to involve parents in the joint development of the district-wide parent involvement plan under Section 1112 of the ESEA by recruiting parents for the district leadership committee, conduct a needs assessment, review campus policies yearly, and hold regular meetings.
- HJISD will involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under Section 1116 of the ESEA by annually holding schools accountable for reviewing campus progress and annually report Title I, Part A, TAPR report to the school board.
- HJISD will provide the necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
- HJISD will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Title I, Part A with involvement strategies and ensure parents have access to the following information: HJISD District Improvement Plan, School-Parent Compact, School Choice Information, and Parent Involvement Newsletter. All Title I, Part A, information has been posted to the district website.
- HJISD will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental and family engagement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents), its parental involvement policies.
- HJISD will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental and family involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:
 1. HJISD will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph—
 - the State's academic content standards;
 - the State's student academic achievement standards;
 - the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments;
 - the requirements of Title I, Part A;
 - how to monitor their child's progress, and
 - how to work with educators.
 2. HJISD will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental and family engagement, by inviting parents to school activities and parent trainings.
 3. HJISD will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by attending campus meetings that will be under the direction of the campus Principal.
 4. HJISD will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with the Early Childhood and Pre-Kindergarten Programs to encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children. There will be coordinated program discussion under the direction of the campus Principal.

5. HJISD will take actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent-programs, meetings and other activities is sent to parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. Title I, Part A, Parent and Family Engagement newsletter will be posted on the district webpage in Spanish and English.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Title I, Part A, program at Sour Lake Elementary or China Elementary School, please contact your child's campus principal or Dr. Steven Cox, Assistant Superintendent, at 409-981-6400.

III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

Parent and Family Engagement Policy includes discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with our parents, choose to undertake to build parents' and families' capacity for involvement in the school and the school system. Discretionary district wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy components support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under Section 1118(e) of the ESEA:

- Involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
- Providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
- Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions; [Section 1116(e)(14)]
- Training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- Arranging meetings at a variety of times; arrange meetings with parents who are unable to attend conferences at school in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education. [Section 1116(c)(1)]
- Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- Establishing a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs.
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and
- Providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Section 1118 as parents may request.

Parents' Right to Know

As a full partner in your child's education, parents have the rights that are governed by Texas Code and Hardin-Jefferson ISD policy.

At the beginning of the school year, HJISD must notify parents of each student attending a Title I, Part A, campus that the district will provide a parent, upon request and in a timely manner, information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teacher, including at a minimum the following:

- Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status through which state qualifications or licensing criteria have been waived.
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher.
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Parent Notification

A campus that receives Title I, Part A, funds must provide to each individual parent:

- Information on their child's level of achievement in each of the state's academic assessment (STAAR) as required under Title I, Part A; and
- Timely notice that a parent's child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.