

Keene Independent School District ESSA Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Statement of Purpose

The Keene Independent School District (KISD) is committed to providing quality education to every student in the district. Partnerships with parents, family members, and the community are essential to this goal as neither home nor school can achieve this goal independently. Everyone gains if school and home work together to promote high student achievement. Parents and family members play an important role as their children's first teachers, and their support is critical to their children's success. KISD intends to include parents and family members in all aspects of the district's Title I programs to create a school-home partnership that will promote student success. The district believes that establishing and maintaining open lines of communication will expand and enhance learning opportunities and create the best learning environment for every child.

Develop Jointly

The KISD Site-Based Decision-Making (SBDM) Committee is comprised of parents, members of the community, teachers, school principals, and district administration. This committee will annually review the ESSA Parent and Family Engagement Policy and revise it as necessary. Each Title I principal, with input from the campus SBDM committees, will make recommendations as necessary to revisions of the district policy.

Build Capacity of Schools

KISD will provide coordination, technical assistance, and other necessary support to assist and build the capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in the district in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. Keene ISD, KISD Superintendent, and the KISD Federal Programs Director will provide support and training to principals, teachers, and staff to promote the parent and family engagement opportunities.

Coordinate Services

KISD will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other federal, state, and local laws and programs.

Annual Evaluation

KISD will assess the needs of the parents and children in the school community using a variety of tools including a survey or questionnaire. The findings will be used to revise the Title I program to meet the current needs. Workshops or other training will be made available to educators and parents to address these needs. Parents will be notified about training opportunities.

The District SBDM committee will review and evaluate all aspects of the parent and family engagement program. Parents will be asked for their input on the content and effectiveness of the Title I parent and family engagement programs through an annual evaluation of the Title I program. The evaluation will include an assessment of overall parent and family engagement and identify barriers to parent and family participation that still need to be overcome, needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning, and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The community will be consulted in the design, development, and implementation of the Title I program. Each year KISD will assess the needs of parents and children in the community through a variety of measures, including parental suggestions. The district and each campus will welcome and receive recommendations about the Title I program.

Design Evidence-Based Strategies

KISD through its Needs Assessment and District Improvement Plan process will use the findings of the annual evaluation to design and incorporate objectives that will lead to more effective parental involvement. The SBDM committee will annually review the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy based on the results of an annual review.

Involve Parents in Activities

Parents can become involved in their children's education through a variety of ways. KISD values both the at-home contributions of parents and those that take place at the school or in the community. Reading to children at home and talking with them at family meals or other families outings are as important as volunteering at school and serving on advisory committees. Many types of parent and family engagement are needed in school-home-community partnerships to help all children succeed. KISD will provide information in a format and language the parents understand. KISD will offer many opportunities for parent and family engagement in the school including, but not limited to the following:

- Parents may contribute through volunteer programs;
- Parents may participate by attending school meetings at a variety of times;
- Parents are invited to serve on committees;
- Parents are invited to develop trainings for educators;
- Parents are surveyed to get their input about school.

Parents will be informed of school activities through various avenues of communication throughout the school year. Websites, newsletters, teacher notes, the school marquee, conferences, personal contacts, phone calls/text messages, emails, and written notices will be used to establish and maintain open lines of communication with parents. The district will welcome and respond to efforts by parents to communicate with the school.