

# **Menard ISD's Parent Involvement Policy**

## **Basic Elements of Menard's Parental Involvement Policy:**

- Purpose
- Development of the Policy
- Annual Meeting
- School-Parent Compacts
- Programs and the School Community
- Staff-Parent Communication
- Evaluation
- Funding

## **Purpose**

Menard ISD believes every child should have the opportunity to attain his/her full potential. Therefore, Menard ISD will maximize its resources to enable each child to become a successful learner. A key resource is its people: administrators, teachers, school staff, parents, and community members. We will work together to establish effective partnerships; together everyone achieves more. School and home must work together to realize higher student achievement. Ongoing, two-way, meaningful communication will occur to facilitate mutual understanding and to stimulate student success.

Menard ISD will provide to all parents the grade level goals for its students. Menard ISD will also publish STAAR and TAKS testing schedule and assessment goals. Those students that need extra assistance will have access to programs that will help them reach these goals.

Menard ISD will make every effort to include parents in the development, evaluation, and revision of the Title I Program and the Parent Involvement Policy. The school-parent compact will describe the responsibilities of key stakeholders and useful channels of communication. The goal of our parental involvement program is student success.

## **Developing the Policy**

An advisory committee will be formed consisting of two parents, two community members, three teachers and staff, and two principals to develop and revise the Menard ISD's Parent Involvement Policy. The need for volunteers to serve on this committee will be opened up and then volunteers will be selected. The parent volunteers will represent the diversity of the student population, and one or more of the parents will have children participating in the Title I

program. The advisory committee will convene at a time and place convenient to all its members.

### **Annual Meeting**

Menard ISD will hold an annual meeting during the first six weeks of the new school year for all parents. At that meeting the Title I program will be described, the Parental Involvement Policy will be distributed and reviewed, and opportunities for parental participation will be explained. Parent volunteers will be recruited to serve on the District Advisory Committee.

The annual meeting will be held at a time that is convenient for parents, and a translator will be present at the meeting. Parents will be informed about the meeting in the newspaper and notices sent home with the students.

Since the goal of Menard ISD is student success, the expectations for school performance, individual student assessments, and grade level curriculum will be provided in a format parents can understand.

Parents will be advised that the effectiveness of the Parental Involvement Program will be evaluated annually and the policy will be revised to meet the needs of the students, school, parents, and community.

### **Parent School Compacts**

The Title I schools of Menard ISD will consult with each school's Parent Advisory Committee to annually develop, review and revise the school-parent compact. The compact will identify the responsibilities of the staff to provide high-level curriculum and instruction, and the expectations of the parents to provide support in their children's learning. The compact will address the best ways to maintain positive, timely communication between school and home the compacts will be available to all parents and families in the packet that comes home with the student handbook, on the school website and it will be discussed at parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools.

### **Programs and the School Community**

Annually Menard ISD 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.

## **Staff-Parent Communication**

Menard ISD will communicate with parents on a regular basis. A Title I newsletter will be distributed four times a year. Important information will be provided in the student handbook, the school-parent compact, and on the district website. Frequent notices about student performance will be mailed home or provided by phone calls, e-mails, conferences, and in-home visits. In so far as possible all communication will be provided in a language and format the parents can understand. Parents are encouraged to contact the school or the child's teacher when questions or problems arise.

## **Evaluation**

Menard ISD will work with its Title I Advisory Committee to evaluate the effectiveness of the Parental Involvement Program. Surveys, classroom observation, assessment data, and other resources will be used to determine the needs and develop revisited strategies for student success. Parental input will be sought. Revisions to the Title I program and the Parental Involvement Policy will be developed and agreed upon with parent input will be communicated to the parents in the district.

## **Funding**

Menard ISD is required to set aside at least 1% of its Title I funds for the purposes of parental involvement. Those funds will be divided among the Title I campuses. The campus principal will consult with the Title I Advisory Committee about allowable uses of the funds. The campus principal will then authorize the use of the fund designated for parental involvement.

## **Concluding Statement**

Menard ISD is committed to the success of students. We will work together with parents to monitor the effectiveness of our Parental Involvement and Title I programs and to provide excellence in education. This policy will be promoted by the school board, administrators, principals, and other school staff as we seek active participation by our parents.

## **Date of Board Approval**

**June 13, 2012**