

Independence School District Sycamore Hills Elementary School Parent Involvement Policy and Plan

The Board of Education recognizes the positive effects of parents/families' involvement in the education of their children. The Board also recognizes the importance of assisting schools in eliminating barriers that impede parent/family involvement and will facilitate an environment that encourages collaboration with parents/families and community. The Board is committed to strong parent/family involvement in working collaboratively with District staff as knowledgeable partners in educating District students. In order to implement the Board's commitment to parent/family involvement in education, the Superintendent will appoint a committee of parents, staff, and community representatives to serve as the District's Parent Involvement Committee. The Committee's responsibilities will include recommendations for program development, parent/staff training and program evaluation.

1. Promote regular, two-way, meaningful communication between home and school.
2. Promote and support responsible parenting.
3. Promote the fact that parents/families play an integral role in assisting their children to learn.
4. Actively solicit parent/family support and assistance for school programs.
5. Include parents as partners in decisions affecting their children and families.
6. Use available community resources to strengthen and promote school programs, family practices, and the achievement of students.

The Board also recognizes the importance of parental involvement with the Title I program and will provide a variety of opportunities for parents to be involved in policy design and in the planning, implementation and review(ing) of Title I programs.

Some of opportunities for Parent Involvement in 2013-14 may include:

1. Communication

- *Attend parent conferences, Meet the Teacher evening, Reading Night, Math Night, Grade Level Music programs, VIP Breakfast, and Title I Annual Meeting at Sycamore and at district level*
- *Receive written communications, with translations if necessary, possibly including:*

Monthly Newsletter from school

Weekly classroom newsletters

Weekly student envelope from classroom teachers and Title I with communication, books and homework to be signed and returned

LLI book envelopes and occasional homework (2nd grade)

District and school procedures are sent home in Sycamore Handbook in fall

PTA and Sycamore events are shared in multiple event flyers

Grade level calendars and schoolwide calendars of upcoming events are sent home

Phone school messenger is used

Emails between home and school are used regularly to communicate on issues

Book Reviews published from the Media Specialist and Title I

Classroom and reading information/links on teacher web page

- *Receive information regarding student progress possibly including:*

Student Progress Reports for classroom

Work folders

Reading Improvement Plan information (revised in fall)

Assignment Notebook with comments from teacher

Assessment data (MAP scores, STAR, Accelerated Reading, Acuity data, Easy CBM data)

2. Shared Responsibility for Student Learning

- *Volunteer opportunities*

PTA events

School parties

Family night events

PAFLE

Field Trips

- *Parents can participate in shared decision making by serving on:*

Parent Advisory Board

PTA Board

Title I Planning/Review Team/Leadership Team

- *A Home-School Compact is utilized to define the responsibilities the school, parent and student each have to facilitate student achievement. This is signed by students, teachers and parents during conference week in the fall.*

3. Building Parent Capacity for Involvement

- *Nutrition Detectives with Kids Safari to inform parents*
- *ABC Fitness*
- *Parent workshops related to student learning:*
 - MAP Night*
 - Curriculum/Meet the Teacher/Information Nights*
 - Math in Focus*
 - Reading Strategies – Reading Night*
 - Technology with Reading and Math Nights*
 - Make and Take Sessions (part of Reading and Math Nights)*
 - Kindergarten Night (spring-orientation)*
 - LLI Parent Information Night*

4. Scheduled Dates for Parent Involvement at Sycamore for the 2013 – 14 School Year

- Meet the Teacher Night-August 12, 2013 from 5:00 to 6:30.*
- Reading Night (Booktoberfest)-October 8, 2013*
- Math Night (March Math Madness)-March 4, 2014*

Sycamore Hills will make parents aware of the Missouri Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC) which provides opportunities for parents to learn about child development and child rearing issues. www.missouri-pirc.org. This will be included in an all-school newsletter or the handbook in the fall.