

Ed Jones Educational Center School Policy for Parent Involvement* in the Education of Their Children Approved By School Site Council

The Ed Jones Educational Center recognizes that a critical part of the effective schooling is parent involvement. The school and the home cannot be looked at in isolation from one another; families and schools need to collaborate to help children adjust to the responsibilities of being successful students.

Research has shown that involvement by parents as partners in their children's education contributes greatly to student achievement and conduct.

1. Families provide the primary education environment.
2. Parent involvement in their children's education improves student achievement.
3. Parent involvement in children's education is more important to student success than family income or education.
4. Parent involvement with the school is most effective when it is supportive, long-lasting, and well-planned.
5. The benefits of parent involvement for students are not limited to early childhood or the elementary grades; positive benefits continue on through high school.
6. Parents need to be involved in supporting their children's education both at home and in the school, in order to ensure the quality of the schools.

The staff of the Ed Jones Educational Center believes that the education of its students is a responsibility shared with parents. The school's primary responsibility shall be to provide a high-quality curriculum and instructional program in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables all students to meet the academic expectations set forth in the California Academic Standards.

Parents shall have the responsibility and opportunity to work with the schools in a mutually supportive and respectful partnership with the goal of helping their children succeed in school.

*Parent involvement refers to the efforts of any caregiver who has responsibility for caring for a child, including parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, foster parents, stepparents, etc.

Parental Involvement Policy

Parent involvement as described in this policy shall be developed with the assistance of parents, agreed to by parents, incorporated in the school's action plan, reviewed and updated annually by parents, and readily available to the local community.

An annual meeting, which all parents are encouraged to attend, shall be held at a time and date that is convenient for the parent community. The written notice (in English, Spanish, and to extent possible, other languages as needed) will include the rights of parents to be actively involved in supporting their children's academic achievement. At the meeting, parents will also receive a description of the services provided to children participating in the Title I program.

Each year parents shall be invited to attend the regularly scheduled School Site Council meetings that are planned at times convenient for their participation. Parents will be kept informed regarding the progress of students in the core academic program. In addition, parents will receive specific information about Title I program participants and program implementation. Through these meetings, parents will be involved on an ongoing basis in the planning, review and improvement of programs, including the parental involvement policy and school plan.

The principal and school staff shall provide timely information about curriculum, local and state assessment results, the proficiency levels students are expected to meet, and the status of the school's Annual Proficiency Index (API) and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Parents will be informed on an ongoing basis about student support programs, classroom activities and school events. They will provide suggestions for, and receive information and training on, family- and education-related topics to assist them with their children.

Shared Responsibilities

The school staff and parents shall jointly develop a school-parent compact that explains how parents, students, and school staff will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The compact shall be reviewed annually and modified as needed. The compact shall –

- Be signed by all parties—parent, student, teacher(s), and principal—and a copy given to the parent and student. The responsibilities of each party will be discussed at parent-teacher conferences, Back-to-School Night, orientation meetings, etc.
- Describe how the school staff will be responsible for providing a high-quality instructional program that enables all students to meet the California academic standards, and for providing a safe, nurturing learning environment for all students.
- Explain how parents will be responsible for supporting their child's learning by monitoring attendance, homework completion, television viewing, and participating in decisions relating to their child's education.

- Describe how students will take responsibility for coming to school to work as learners.

Building Parent Involvement

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and community that will improve student achievement, the school shall consider the following avenues to:

1. provide regularly scheduled informational meetings and workshops to address topics requested and needed by parents. To address the requirements in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Title I, Section 1118, the school shall enable parents to gain a better understanding of the following:
 - State academic content standards and achievement goals all students are expected to meet.
 - How to monitor their children's progress through interpreting state and local assessment reports and student progress reports.
 - Strategies to use at home to support their child's academic achievement, such as monitoring the completion of homework and school assignments, reading with their child, working with math, literacy, training, etc.
 - Effective use of resources provided by the parent center that support and encourage parental involvement in their children's education.
2. School staff shall be educated, with the assistance of parents, in the value of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners in their children's education by pursuing strategies to:
 - Ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, workshops, and other activities is sent in a parent-friendly format and, to the extent practical, in a language parents understand.
 - Implement and coordinate parent programs that build ties between parents and the school, such as opportunities to support the school through volunteering their time, including classroom support and after-school activities.
 - Become knowledgeable about parent rights as specified in California statutes and in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Title I, Part A.

3. To further the goal of effective parent involvement, school staff will consider the following avenues:
- Examine and adopt model parent involvement programs such as Joyce Epstein's Six Keys to Effect Parent Involvement or the National PTA's National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement.
 - Organize a parent group (PTA, PTO) for the purpose of supporting parent involvement activities at the school and to enhance the leadership skills of parents in working with other parents.
 - Train parents in leadership roles in order to effectively serve on the PTA/PTO, Title I Advisory Committee, Safe-School Committee, and the School Site Council.
 - Form alliances with community-based agencies and businesses outside of the school to connect families, in need of assistance, to appropriate services.
 - Consider hiring a parent/community representative as the liaison between home and school to increase parent communication and participation. (Funded through Title I).

Accessibility

The school, to the extent practical, shall provide parents with limited English proficiency opportunities to fully participate in school-sponsored activities by using translation at all meetings and workshops and by sending written notices and reports in a language (to the extent possible) that parents understand.

This school site parent involvement policy is based on the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Title I, Part A, Parental Involvement at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg2.html#sec1118>