

# Thomas Arnold Parent and Family Engagement Policy

## Statement of Purpose

Thomas Arnold Elementary is committed to the goal of providing a quality education for every child. In order to accomplish this goal, partnerships must be established with parents, families, and the community. Everyone gains if school and home work together to promote high achievement for our children. Neither home nor school can do the job alone. Parents play an extremely important role as children's first teachers. The District recognizes and encourages parents in the four key roles that they play in their children's learning as:

- Teacher – helping their child at home,
- Supporter – contributing their skills to the school,
- Advocate – helping their child receive fair treatment, and
- Decision Maker – participating in joint problem-solving with the school at every level.

## Parent Involvement in Developing the Policy

The District and Campus Improvement Site-based Committees are composed of parents, community leaders, business representatives, and district personnel. The Committee has direct input in the development and revision of the parent and family engagement policy on an annual basis. Parent comments from parent/teacher conferences, parent surveys, and other meetings to solicit parent and family input are used in the development and revision of this policy. Light meals or snacks may be provided to encourage attendance and childcare may be offered as needed during site-based committee meetings when Title I program/requirements are being addressed.

## Thomas Arnold Elementary Parent/Student/School Compact

In order for school, parents, and students to share responsibility for high student achievement, the School/Parent/Student Compact outlines school, parent, and student responsibilities necessary for effective learning to take place. The Compact is reviewed/revised each year by the Site-based Committee. The Compact is provided at the beginning of the school year and is included in the registration packet. The school official, parent and student are encouraged to sign and return the Compact to the home campus. A copy is also distributed to parents. The Compact is reviewed with parents at the Fall Parent-Teacher conference as the compact relates to student achievement.

## Increasing Communication and Providing Title I Communication in Parent's Home Language

Letters home, newsletters, flyers, phone calls, campus improvement plans and other related Title I, Part A communication will be provided in English and Spanish. Translators will be available for Title I related meetings, parent-teacher conferences, or at the request of a parent for other attended functions. The campus will strive to provide and encourage two-way communication between home and school. Campus personnel will receive annual training on the value of utilizing and increasing parent participation and enhancing communication efforts. Parent input for personnel training is included in parent surveys and through input from the Campus Site-based Committee.

## Annual Title I Parent-Family Meeting

The annual Title I meeting will be provided to inform parents and families of Thomas Arnold Elementary's participation under the Title I, Part A program; campus parent involvement requirements and opportunities; and their right to be involved in their student's education. Two meetings with the same content will be provided, one in the evening and one in the morning to

provide flexibility for parent schedules. All Thomas Arnold Elementary parents and families will be invited and encouraged to attend. Translation services will be provided as needed.

#### Types of Parental Involvement

The Superintendent, in coordination with the campus Principal, provides technical assistance and other support necessary to help the school plan and implement effective parental, family, and community involvement efforts. Realizing the value of parents and their contribution to the partnership of creating successful students, input will be requested to assist education personnel in building upon that partnership relationship to strengthen ties between home and school. The campus will encourage all parents and families to be an active part of their student's education.

The following are possible opportunities for home-school partnerships that parents are encouraged to take advantage of throughout the year at Thomas Arnold Elementary.

- Annual Title I meeting
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Open House
- Thomas Arnold Elementary School/Parent/Student Compact
- Thomas Arnold Elementary School website
- Parent Surveys
- Watch Dog Program
- PTO
- Parent School Volunteers

Questions, concerns, and/or comments may be directed to Katie Mullins, Principal, at 254-947-6925.