

## DISNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### Parent and Family Engagement Policy

PURPOSE: Tulsa Public Schools shall promote parent engagement in all schools as mandated by Title I, Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA), and work as equal partners with parents and family members in providing quality learning experiences for every student, every day, without exception.

The Board believes and acknowledges that parent engagement raises the academic achievement level of students. Additionally, parents and family members become empowered, teacher morale improves and communities grow stronger when parents and family members take an active role in educating their children. To this end, schools shall involve parents and family members in the education of their children at all grades levels. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall provide coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist all schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA)-Title I Parent Engagement establishes that to build capacity for parent engagement within schools, a district is to “develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to parents of participating children a written Parent Engagement Policy”.

#### Building Parents Capacity for Involvement

The Board believes that empowering parents and family members to insist on improvement and giving schools extra incentive to do so and by giving parents options regarding their children’s education helps the district to realize its vision to become the “District of Choice” for patrons of the community. As a result of this belief, the Board shall create an environment of supportive and collaborative parent and family engagement.

1. Program Information for Parents and Family Members: Disney Elementary School shall provide assistance to parents and family members of all children in understanding such topics as the state’s academic content and achievement standards, the assessments being used, the requirements and rights of Title 1, Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) and how to monitor their children’s progress and work with educators to improve their achievement.
2. Accountability- Disney Elementary School utilizes various accountability measures to insure that the needs of our students are being met. Parents, family members, students, and teachers will sign an “Accountability Agreement” during the fall of each school year that outlines the responsibilities each holds in the education of the student. Students and parents will receive written notification of the Code of Conduct, Dress Code, and Attendance Policies at the beginning of each school year to make parents and students aware of acceptable behavior and the consequences of violating these expectations. Progress reports will alternate with report cards every 4 ½ weeks to help parents monitor their student’s progress. Parents will also

be able to access their progress online anytime through the school's PowerSchool system.

3. **Materials and Training:** Disney Elementary School shall provide materials and training during Literacy Nights and Parent Parties to help parents and family members work with their children to improve achievement. Also, Disney will maintain a Parent Resource Center in the school lobby to assist parents with their needs. The Parent Resource Center has a collection of parenting books, handbooks, flyers, and community resource information to provide parents and family members with the tools necessary to help develop successful students. Disney will also provide professional development opportunities to faculty and staff to strengthen and enhance the "teacher—parent" relationship. Disney will also provide training to parents on how to access Power School to check student's grades and attendance.
4. **Educational Opportunities:** Disney Elementary School shall educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, with the assistance of parents and family members, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and the school.
5. **Pre-School Coordination:** Disney Elementary School partnered with Disney Head Start, a Four-Year-Old program in Collaboration with Community Action Program. Four-year-olds experience Disney cafeteria procedures via an invited lunchtime opportunity at the end of the year. Also, they visit a Kindergarten class to familiarize themselves with the classroom atmosphere. The parents of four-year-olds meet periodically and host their special events here at Disney as well.
6. **Communication and Resources:** Disney Elementary School is committed to keeping parents and family members informed of its activities. Newsletters, *School Connects* telephone messaging system, social media, our school website, and the school marquee are used to inform parents of Disney school events, meetings, and other important information in English and Spanish. Disney also communicates with the Spanish speaking parents through the school's parent facilitator and interpreter. Programs such as Food Backpack for children from the Community Food Bank of Oklahoma, Operation School Bell, and Thanksgiving Food Baskets from the Salvation Army for everyone in need are also offered at Disney Elementary.
7. **Other Requested Activities:** Disney Elementary School shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request. Disney will proactively develop appropriate roles for community organizations and businesses in parental involvement activities. Disney partners with St. Matthew's Church, St. Dunstan's Church, Encounter Church, CiCi's Pizza, Sonic, Children's Dental Health, Community Health Connection, Dayspring, OSU Family Science, Home Builders Assoc. and Faith Technologies to better serve our students and families.
8. **Informational meetings:** In order to foster positive and meaningful interaction between parents and staff, Disney will hold meetings throughout the school year. These meetings include, but are not limited to, Back to School Night, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Parent Parties, and Literacy Nights.

## What is Parent Engagement?

Parent engagement in schools is defined as parents and school staff working together to support and improve the learning, development and health of children and adolescents. Parent engagement in schools is a shared responsibility in which schools are committed to reaching out to engage parents in meaningful ways, and parents are committed to actively supporting their children's and adolescents' learning and development.

Studies have shown that parent engagement in schools can promote positive education and health behaviors among children and adolescents. Research shows a strong relationship between parent engagement and educational outcomes, including school attendance and higher grades and classroom test scores.

### (c) POLICY ENGAGEMENT- Disney will —

- (1) convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under this part and to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved;
- (2) offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, services related to parental engagement,
- (3) involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under this part, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan under section 1114(b),
- (4) provide parents of participating children —
  - (A) timely information about programs under this part;
  - (B) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and
  - (C) if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions

relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible; and

(5) if the schoolwide program plan under section 1114(b) is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to Tulsa Public Schools.

Revised: September 13, 2017

Legal Reference: Title I, Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA)