

Sierra Middle School Title I School Parental Involvement Policy 2019-2020

I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Sierra Middle School agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school will jointly develop with parents and distribute to parents of participating students, a School Parental Involvement Policy that the school and parents of participating children agree on and approved by School Site Council.
- The school will notify parents about the School Parental Involvement Policy in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practicable, will distribute this policy to parents in a language the parents can understand.
- The school will make the School Parental Involvement Policy available to the local community.
- The school will periodically update the School Parental Involvement Policy to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.
- The school will adopt the school's school-parent compact as a component of its School Parental Involvement Policy.
- The school will provide opportunities for participation by parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities and migratory parents.
- The school agrees to be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement and will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring -

- (A) That parents play an integral role in assisting with their child's learning;*
- (B) That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- (C) That parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;*
- (D) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in the home-school compact.*

II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

- **Sierra Middle School** will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint agreement of its School Parental Involvement Policy in an organized, ongoing and timely way:
 - This form will be taken to SSC and ELAC for input.
 - This will be done on a yearly basis at the beginning of each school year.
- **Sierra Middle School** will take the following actions to distribute to parents of participating children and the local community, the School Parental Involvement Policy:
 - Each year this policy will be included in the registration packet, which is mailed home during the summer to all parents.
 - Copies will be kept in the office for anyone who desires a copy.
- **Sierra Middle School** will update periodically its School Parental Involvement Policy to meet the changing needs of the parents and the school.
 - The policy will be taken to SSC and ELAC and periodically updated as part of the joint-development between the school and parents.

- **Sierra Middle School** will convene an annual meeting to inform parents that their child's school participates in Title I and of their rights to be involved.
 - This process will be discussed at the beginning of the year Title 1 Parent Meeting.
- **Sierra Middle School** will hold a flexible number of meetings at varying times, paid for with Title I funding as long as these services relate to parental involvement.
 - The SSC will meet 5-7 times throughout the year at 3:00 pm. Refreshments will be provided.
 - Topics for these meetings will include but will not be limited to the following: school plan, parent-school compact, parent involvement, parent education, digital dashboard, attendance and ways parents can support their children to be successful at school, etc.
 - Title I Parent trainings will be offered throughout the year with refreshments.
- **Sierra Middle School** will provide timely information about Title I programs to parents of participating students in a timely manner.
 - Information about school activities or parent input processes are sent home by students, home mailers and parent link at least a week before, then a reminder is sent a few days before the event.
 - Information can be found on the Sierra website and PowerSchool Learning.
- **Sierra Middle School** will provide to parents of participating children a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
 - Information about curriculum, assessment processes and proficiency levels is sent home through the mail during the school year to all parents. This is done in both English and Spanish.
 - Parents also receive this information at SSC and ELAC.
 - If parents require more information, they can request information from the front office, counselors or individual teachers.
 - Parent Teacher Conferences is another place where parents can come and get information from individual teachers.
- **Sierra Middle School** will provide parents of participating students, 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.
 - All parents are invited to attend the SSC, where school processes are discussed and input taken.
 - Parents are invited to attend parent conferences with their child's teachers when needed or requested by either the school or parent. These meetings are held at a time when parents are available.
- **Sierra Middle School** will submit to the district any parent comments if the School Wide Plan is not satisfactory to parents of participating children.
 - After presenting the school plan to the SSC, any unsatisfactory comments will be sent to the district and addressed through these committees.

III. SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HIGH STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

- **Sierra Middle School** has jointly developed with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines:
 - The shared responsibility of parents, students and the entire school staff to improve students' academic achievement.
 - The shared responsibility between the school and parents to help children achieve the statewide academic content standards.
 - The school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that helps children served under Title I meet the statewide academic content standards.
 - The ways in which parents will be responsible for supporting their children's learning; such as monitoring attendance, homework completion and internet use, participating, as appropriate, in decisions related to the education of their children and the positive use of their children's extracurricular time.
 - The importance of ongoing communication between teachers and parents through (at a minimum):
 - Bi-annual parent teacher conferences, in which the compact shall be discussed in relation to the individual child's achievement.
 - Frequent reports to parents about their children's progress – through the quarterly progress reports system.
 - Reasonable access to staff
 - The school-home compact will be presented, discussed and input given at SSC meetings.
 - SSC had input into the development of this compact.
 - It will be distributed through the summer mailer of information sent to parents.
 - It will be updated by these groups each year.

Sierra Middle School will, with the assistance of the district, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school in understanding topics such as the following:

- The state's academic content standards.
- The state's student academic achievement standards.
- The state and local academic assessments, including alternate assessments.
- The requirements of Title I.
- How to monitor their child's progress.
- How to work with educators.
 - Parent trainings will be done on a regular basis through SSC.
 - Information will be disseminated as needed and most information is available in the front office at all times.
- **Sierra Middle School** will, with the assistance of the district, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.
 - The following trainings for parents will take place:

Dates for SSC & ELAC:

ELAC 1:30-2:30 on Tuesdays

Sept. 24, Oct. 22, Nov.19, Jan. 28, Feb 25, Mar 10, Apr. 28

SSC- 3:00-4:00 on Tuesdays

Sept 24, Oct. 22, Nov. 19, Jan. 28, Feb. 25, Mar 10, Apr 28

- **Sierra Middle School** will, with the assistance of its district and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and school.
 - Our translator will work with parents and attend any necessary training processes.
 - Community groups and district liaisons are invited to participate.

- **Sierra Middle School** will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with PIQE and other programs, conduct other activities that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children
 - Each year in the summer, all incoming 7th & 8th graders, will be invited to Spirit Day which is held to give information and answer questions.
 - Counselors visit feeder elementary schools to provide incoming 7th graders with information to make their transition easier.

- **Sierra Middle School** will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternate formats upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.
 - All parent communication is in a parent friendly format provided in both English and Spanish.
 - The phone dialer is done in both English and Spanish.
 - Sierra has set up a website where parents can access information about the school.
 - Individual teachers have websites accessible to parents; in addition, PowerSchool Learning is available.

- To further the goal of effective parent involvement, **Sierra Middle School** staff will:
 - Invite parents to attend Parent Teacher Conferences during the school year where staff and the community have an opportunity to interact outside of the typical school day.