



Harmony Science Academy – San Antonio

District Parental Involvement Policy

2018-2019

Harmony Public Schools Mission Statement

“Our mission at Harmony is to prepare each student for higher education by providing a safe, caring, and collaborative atmosphere featuring a quality, student-centered educational program with a strong emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.”

Statement of Purpose

The success of Harmony Public School students based on a program emphasizing academic excellence while motivating student achievement. The Harmony School model is:

- Rigorous (prepares student for college);
- Relevant (reinforces math and science skills); and,
- Relationships (a strong culture of meaningful personal relationships, reinforced by teachers and parents)

Harmony attributes the strong performance of its schools and students to three core principles within the school model:

- A challenging math and science curriculum supported by theory;
- A focus on assessment across the school system; and,
- A culture of constructive competition, discipline and parental engagement.

To this end, we want to establish partnership with parents and with the community. Parents play an extremely important role as the children’s first teachers. Their support for their children and for the school is critical to their children’s success at every step of the way.

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Harmony Science Academy – San Antonio district receives Title I, Part A funds and develops jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents of participating children a written parental involvement policy that contains information required by section 1118(a)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (district wide parental involvement policy). The policy establishes Harmony’s expectations for parental involvement and describes how Harmony will implement a number of specific parental involvement activities.

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Harmony Science Academy – San Antonio district agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- The school district will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information in the State.
- The school district will 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—

- *that parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;*
- *that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;*
- *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;*
- *the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.”*

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

The district will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district parental involvement plan under section 1112 and the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

Actions: Parents and district personnel will meet to develop our district’s Parent Involvement Policy. From each campus, parents will be invited to attend the meeting to be part of the process. District convenes a parent meeting twice a year, to inform parents of their school’s participation under this part and to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of parents to be involved.

To build the schools’ and parents’ capacity for strong parent involvement as described in section 1118 (e), our district with cooperation of the campuses, will provide the following:

Actions: Related information regarding parent programs, meetings, and other activities will be sent to parents in a timely manner. This information distributed through weekly newsletters, phone calls, web sites, through classroom teachers, social media, School Messenger, and/or PTO member notification. District will also provide specific training and materials to help parents work with their children to improve achievement. An annual meeting where parents will learn about the requirements of the school’s Title I program will be held. A letter will be sent to each child’s parents and meeting will be announced on each campus website and ClassDojo. Parent meeting conferences will be held one time in a year. Meeting times needs to be accommodated to the needs of the parents. Communications with the parents will be in a format and a language that they can understand.

The district will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

Actions: Every year district will conduct a Title I parental Involvement survey in order to evaluate the effectiveness of this parental involvement policy. The District will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

The district will build the schools’ and parent’s capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

Actions: The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph:

- 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 Part A,
- how to monitor their child’s progress, and
- how to work with educators:
 - Informational brochure is sent with STAAR scores to explain the meaning,
 - Informing parents about TEAs STAAR online resources (reports, practice tests, etc.)
 - monitor a child’s progress by looking at progress reports and report cards,

- offer information sessions by “parent night” to outline STAAR expectations,
- post parental informative sources to the school websites, Parent Website or send it home through weekly newsletters.

The district will, with the assistance of its schools 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 schools, by:

Actions: A training provided to the teachers, pupil services, principals and other staff about how to reach parents and to have them actively involved in their child’s academic success. Campuses trained about the scope of Title I Parental Involvement Policy, related activities, and Title I budget expenditure guidelines. Staff will be sent to Regional Education Service Centers, when necessary.

The district will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

Actions: District Coordinators and Harmony Central Office staff will provide support and training to the staff to promote the parental involvement activities.

The district will take the following actions to 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 alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

Actions: Parental involvement information will be provided throughout the year. Time and date of parent meetings will be posted in web sites and in weekly campus letters (both English and Spanish). Meeting flyers will be available in the school entrance and/or posted on the bulletin boards. Parent involvement information will be provided during open houses. Meeting information shared using school websites, ClassDojo, social media, and/or School Messenger.

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

The District Wide Parental Involvement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents’ capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children’s academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under section 1118(e) of the ESEA:

- in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children’s education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school;
- adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- establishing a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parental involvement activities; and
- providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities
- PTO to support parental involvement and communication

PART V. ADOPTION

This district wide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by sign-in sheet, agenda, and meeting minutes.

This policy was adopted by the Harmony Science Academy San Antonio on September 25, 2018 and will be in effect for the period of 2018-2019 academic year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 30, 2018.

Christian K. Pava
(Signature of Authorized Official)

September 25, 2018
(Date)