



**BROWNSVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
TITLE I-A FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY
2020-2021
Vela Middle School**



I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Vela Middle School is committed to providing quality education to every student in the district. Partnerships with parents and the community are essential to this goal as neither home nor school can achieve this goal independently. Everyone gains if school and homework together to promote high student achievement. Parents play an important role as children's first teacher and their support is critical to their children's success. Vela Middle School intends to include parents in all aspects of the district's Title I-A programs to create a school-home partnership that will promote student success.

Grade level goals for all children in Vela Middle School will be distributed to parents with the expectation that *all* students will work toward these goals. Vela Middle School recognizes that some students may need the extra assistance of Title I-A programs to reach these goals and is committed to providing that support.

- After school tutorial
- STAAR tutorial and instructional materials for students (STAAR Workbooks).
- Counseling sessions

II. PARENT ENGAGEMENT IN DEVELOPING AND REVISING THE POLICY

Vela Middle School Parent Advisory Committee consisting of campus parents, teachers, principals and community members developed the campus Family Engagement Policy. The Vela Middle School will annually form an Advisory Committee to review the Family Engagement Policy and to revise it as necessary. Special attention will be given to recruiting parent volunteers of children served in the Title I-A programs, with a goal of having at least two parents of each campus on the committee. The Title I-A Family Engagement Policy will be posted on the campus website.

- August 2020 - May 2021 Title I-A Family Engagement Policy will be distributed to parents)
- October 2020 and February 2021 (DPAC Reviews)

III. ANNUAL TITLE I-A CAMPUS PARENT MEETINGS

Vela Middle School will hold an annual Title I meeting for parents. These meetings will be held during the fall semester. The purpose of this meeting is to provide parents with information regarding Title I-A guidelines and services offered utilizing Title I-A funds as stated in the current Family Engagement Policy. The Family Engagement Policy will also be distributed to parents. Parents will be given the opportunity to offer their suggestions for any revisions to the policy. Parents may also volunteer to serve on either the district-wide or individual school's advisory committee or both.

The annual Title I-A meeting will be held at flexible times to increase the opportunity for parental participation. English and Spanish translation will be available. Written notices in both languages will be sent to parents notifying them of the date and times of the meetings. Parent

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volunteers, parent trainers, and parent liaisons will also contact other parents by phone regarding the meetings. Volunteers who speak both English and Spanish will make all contacts.

- September 2020 - October 2020 (Title I-A Parent Meetings)

IV. SCHOOL-PARENT-STUDENT COMPACT

According to Title I-A regulations, Vela Middle School must share responsibility with parents for high student achievement by jointly developing a School-Parent-Student Compact. These compacts must outline the responsibilities of parents, staff, and students for promoting high student performance. Parents on Vela Middle School Advisory Committee must be involved in designing the compacts. Students' responsibilities may vary by grade level.

All parents will receive the compact from their child's school with a checklist of the responsibilities that teachers, parents, and students have for helping students achieve their goals.

Parents are urged to discuss the compact with their children before they and their children sign the document. The School-Parent-Student Compact will be posted on the campus website.

- August 2020 – May 2021 (School-Parent-Student Compact will be distributed to parents)
- October 2020 and February 2021 (DPAC Reviews)

V. TYPES OF FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Vela Middle School will provide opportunities for parent engagement to become involved in their children's education. Vela Middle School values both the at-home contributions of parents and those that take place at the school or in the community. Reading to children at home and talking with them at family meals are as important as volunteering at school and serving on advisory committees. Many types of family engagement are needed in school-home-community partnership to help all children succeed. In alignment with BISD's philosophy and mission, each Campus Improvement Plan (CIP) must include a family engagement component. All parent and community volunteers must comply with the district policy regarding State of Texas background checks.

- Weekly Meetings (In person or Virtual)
- Health and Nutrition Class (In person or Virtual)
- Arts & Crafts (when in person meetings are available)
- Parent Activities (when in person meetings are available)
- Computer & Technology Training (In person or Virtual)

VI. ADAPT PROGRAMS TO THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY

Each year Vela Middle School will assess the needs of parents and children in the community through a variety of measures, including parent surveys, so that Title I programs can be tailored to meet those needs. Workshops and other programs will be available to address the expressed needs. Parents will be notified of these opportunities by the individual schools.

Parents may also call the Parental and Family Engagement Department or the school office to express an interest in a particular workshop topic or to make recommendations about the program.

- September 2020 – May 2021 (Parent Consultation Needs Assessment will be conducted)

VII. STAFF-PARENT COMMUNICATION

Vela Middle School informs parents of monthly activities and current issues through various means of communication. Communication with parents should also include a school newsletter distributed by the school at least four times a year. Notices sent home should be in both English and Spanish. Parents are encouraged to take the initiative in calling their child's teacher or campus administrator when they have a concern. Staff should receive training on techniques to improve home-school communication. Parents may participate in this training.

- Phone Calls
- Virtual Fliers
- School Messenger
- Marquee
- School Website and/or School Facebook page
- Zoom and TEAMS for virtual meetings
- August 2020 - May 2021 (Staff Development)

VIII. EVALUATION

The district-wide Title I-A Parent Advisory Committee, which includes parents of Title I, Migrant, Bilingual, Special Needs and GT students, will participate in the process of school review and improvement. This committee will collect information in a variety of ways, including campus visits and class observations.

Parents will also be asked for their input on the content and effectiveness of the Title I-A Family Engagement programs through an annual evaluation of the program. The evaluation will include an assessment of overall increases in family engagement and barriers to parental participation that still need to be overcome. Vela Middle School will revise its Family Engagement Policy on the basis of this annual review.

- March 2021- April 2021 (School's Comprehensive Needs Assessment will be conducted)
- February 2021 (Title I-A Family Engagement Survey)

