

Houston Middle School Parent Engagement Policy 2022-2023

Houston Middle School Vision of Parent Engagement

Houston Middle School is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child. To this end, HMS wants to establish partnerships with families and community. Everyone gains if our school and families work together to promote high achievement from our children; no one can do the job alone. HMS families play an extremely important role in children live as their first teachers. A full circle of support for students and is critical to their success every step of the way.

Houston Middle School recognizes that some students need extra help and assistance to be successful. Various types of assistance are available through the HMS Title I program to reach high academic standards. HMS will reach out to families for input in all aspects of the Title I program. The goal is a school-home partnership that will help all students to succeed.

Houston Middle School will:

1. Jointly develop/revise with Houston Middle School Families Parent Engagement Policy and distribute it to the families of participating children and make available the parent engagement plan to the local community.
 - a. Houston Middle School Families are invited to the Quarter 1 Title I Team Meeting, October 19, 2022, which is also scheduled prior to our Quarter 1 Engagement Event called “Family Technology and Game Night.” Notification of all meetings will be made in the monthly newsletter, social media, and a reminder Blackboard connect message will be sent before the meeting. A copy of the Title I plan is available on our website and feedback will also be encouraged through email and a brief online survey for those who cannot attend the actual meeting.
2. Convene an annual meeting, inviting all Houston Middle School Families to attend, inform Houston Middle School Families of their school’s participation under this part and to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the Houston Middle School Families to be involved.



- a. The Title I Annual Meeting will be held on October 12, 2022, & October 15, 2022, virtually; we will have the presentation on the website afterwards. We feel that it is important to inform our Houston families about our Title I funds and all the great things it allows us to do.
3. Offer other methods to give valuable input if attending a meeting is not possible.
 - a. Through past surveys, Houston Middle School learned that weekday evenings are the most convenient for the majority of families. If we combine the meeting with a fun family event directly following, we found that the attendance improved dramatically. Houston Middle School will use more electronic means to get more engagement from our families who have busy schedules and want to give feedback in that manner versus attending a meeting at Houston High School. Our Parent Coordinator will continue to inform families promptly through social media, our website, monthly newsletters, and Blackboard Connect, and usage of the electronic reader board of all meetings so families can plan accordingly.
 4. Involve Houston Middle School Families, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, improvement, and development of the Title I school plan.
 - a. Houston Middle School families are sent individual emails, monthly newsletters, and Blackboard Connect messages in addition to fliers sent home with students to invite Houston Middle School Families to various meetings and forums regarding the evaluation or revision of the Title I school plan and other important information. Additionally, our Parent Coordinator will maintain updated information on various social media outlets and use that to have 2-way communication with families who choose to take advantage of that method of providing feedback.
 5. Involve Houston Middle School Families and school staff in the development of a School-Community Compact that explains ways the school staff, Houston Middle School Families, and students will work together to increase student achievement.
 - a. Compacts will be made available electronically and in paper form within the first 90 days of the start of the school year. The newly designed compacts will also be accessible all year long at our reception desk, plus made available during every school and Title I event.



6. Provide Houston Middle School Families timely information about –
 - a. 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.
 - i. This is communicated through the monthly newsletter, individual teacher and school-wide website, teacher syllabi, and progress reports sent home with students.
 - b. If requested by Houston Middle School Families, 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 practically possible.
 - i. Houston Middle School advocates a collaborative approach with families which encourage a phone call at any time with concerns or suggestions. This is communicated to Houston Middle School Families via the Title I Annual Meeting, monthly newsletters, teacher websites & emails, and the Parent Forum meetings.
 - c. A description of the Title I program in the school
 - i. Houston Middle School families are welcomed to have input in the Title I plan either in person or by electronic communications and surveys. A review of the entire plan is offered during any of the quarterly Parent Engagement events and during the first Title I Annual meeting at the beginning of the new school year.
7. Will provide a way for families to offer feedback and share concerns form any parent/guardians on the plan when it's available to the community.
 - a. Houston Middle School families are invited to respond to the Title I plan via email, phone call, or to come by personally at any time to discuss concerns.



8. Work together to share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement by:
 - a. Conducting parent/teacher conferences, annually (at a minimum),
 - i. Mat-Su Borough School District guidelines are followed, which plans conferences to take place twice per school year at staggered times to make it convenient for all families of Houston Middle School students to attend.
 - b. The compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement.
 - i. Teachers discuss certain aspects of the Compact with students during a daily scheduled 4 C's class and make themselves available to Houston Middle School families and students via individual websites, emails, and telephone.
 - c. Providing frequent reports to Houston Middle School Families on their children's progress; and
 - i. Teachers print progress reports for students to monitor their academics and mid-quarter grade nonfictions are sent to Houston families.
 - d. Providing Houston Middle School Families with reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class and observation of classroom activities.
 - i. Houston Middle School families can access the staff via telephone, email or personal websites at any time. Volunteer opportunities are posted in the monthly newsletter and during special event notifications and planning processes. Families who want to observe classroom activities are encouraged to make arrangements using the above communication tools or to stop in personally.
 - e. Providing Houston Middle School Families with regular meetings to make suggestions and participate in decisions relating to the education of their children.
 - i. The Parent Forum will meet to encourage family participation in Title I, programs, and other suggestions relating to their student's education.
9. Assist Houston Middle School Families in understanding topics such as the State's academic content standards, local academic assessments, all the requirements, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.



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- a. Houston Middle School provides links on its website to the state website for assessments and standards.
10. Provide materials and training to help Houston Middle School Families to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy, math, and technology training, as appropriate, to foster parental engagement.
- a. Although past training events have not historically been well attended, Houston Middle School will offer after school tutoring starting in the first quarter; this will focus on all academic areas.
11. Provide full opportunities for the participation of Houston Middle School Families with children with limited English proficiency, Houston Middle School Families with children with disabilities, and Houston Middle School Families of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such Houston Middle School Families can understand.

This Houston Middle School Parental Engagement Policy has been developed/revised jointly with and agreed on, with Houston Middle School Families of children participating in the Title I program. The draft version is available on-line and until January 9, 2023, during which time is considered the final input period. The final version of the Parent Engagement Policy will be developed/revised by Houston Middle School on 1/11/2023 and be in effect for the period of the school year. The completed copy of the Parent Engagement Policy is made available on or before 1/11/2023 to all Houston Middle School Families via the website or a paper version upon request.

(Signature of Title I Authorized Representative)

12/16/2022

(Date)



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA
BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

