



Parent Involvement Model Policy

Statement of Purpose -Uplift Education's mission is to create and sustain public schools of excellence that empower students to reach their highest potential and inspire a lifelong love of learning, achievement, service, and responsible citizenship.

Each school provides free college preparatory education in a community that has limited high quality public education options. Our goal is to completely CLOSE the achievement gap between students, regardless of their ethnic or socio-economic background, while ensuring that 100% of our students graduate and enroll in college.

Commit to College: Uplift Education is committed to building a brighter future – one student at a time. We do this by creating quality, college preparatory public schools in underserved communities. Each student must be accepted into a two- or four-year college institution in order to receive their diploma from an Uplift high school.

Commit to Community: Our community approach means that we actively reach out to local leaders and invite them to help us improve education in their communities by serving on our local boards and being advocates for our mission in their local neighborhoods.

Commit to Change: By nurturing academic performance and civic responsibility from kindergarten through high school, we do more than expand our students' horizons. We also change people's perceptions of what is possible in public education.

Developing the District Parent Involvement Policy-

Because the Uplift Education schools are located throughout the Dallas-Ft. Worth area, each campus will develop its' own Campus Parent Involvement Policy. The Uplift Education Parent Involvement Model Policy will serve as the District Parent Involvement Policy and the model for the development of Campus Parent Involvement Policies. Therefore, a task force composed of parents, teachers, and campus staff will meet at least twice each year (Fall semester) to discuss the design and implementation of the Campus Parental Involvement Policy. Topics that will be discussed by the task force include:

- Revisions that may be needed to the current/model policy;
- Possible coordination, technical assistance, and other support that may be necessary to assist campuses in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance;
- Review of the Consolidated Application for Federal Funding each year. If the Title I program plan description in the NCLB Consolidated Application for Federal Funding (or Shared Services Arrangement) is not satisfactory to parents of participating children, —campuses may submit any parent comments to the Uplift Education Federal Programs Manager, Region 10 Education Service Center, or the Texas Education Agency.
- Strategies that a campus is required to use to build the campuses' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement include:
 - Assistance in understanding such topics as the state's academic content standards and state student academic achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, parental involvement requirements under NCLB, Title I requirements for parental involvement, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve academic achievement;



- Materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology to foster parental involvement;
- Educating teachers, support staff, campus directors, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, 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;
- Ensuring that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand; and
- Providing such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request.
- Strategies a campus may use to build the campuses' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement include:
 - Involvement of parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of parental involvement training;
 - Training parents to assist in encouraging the involvement of other parents;
 - Arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation;
 - Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
 - Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parental involvement activities; and
- Coordination and integration of Title I parental involvement strategies with those of other programs and activities that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children;
- Annual evaluation, with the involvement of parents, of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of Title I campuses, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents, and using the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the district and campus parental involvement policies;
- Involvement of parents in the activities of Title I campuses, including decisions regarding how funds reserved under Section 1118(a)(3)(A) are allotted for parental involvement activities; and
- Assistance to parents and parent organizations by informing them of the existence and purpose of parental information and resource centers.
- **"A Toolkit for Title I Parental Involvement"** (from SEDL's National Center for Family and Community Connections with Schools) is available as a PDF document on iShine

Uplift Education will actively recruit parent participation through appropriate avenues of publicity (VIP meetings, community bulletin board, school marquee, newsletters, website, etc.)

Two Parent Involvement Task Force meetings will be held between September 1st and November 30th and in locations that are convenient for all concerned parties. Sign in sheets, agendas, and minutes will be maintained on each campus in the Title I Documentation Folders (Parent Involvement Part 1 folder).



Campus Parental Involvement - Because many of the students served by Uplift Education reside throughout the DFW area, the degree parental involvement at each campus will vary depending on the individual circumstances. As a result, each campus will formulate and implement its own parental involvement policy in coordination with the individual needs of their communities.

Uplift Education will support a variety of parental involvement strategies as it strives to develop and maintain an optimum learning environment for all students. Parents, guardians, or surrogates, may contribute through volunteer programs, where appropriate, as well as by fostering a supportive home atmosphere.

- Each campus will distribute a Parent & Student Handbook to all persons acting in the role of parent, whether parent/guardian, or surrogate.
- Each campus will develop and maintain various avenues of communication throughout the school year to keep parents, guardians, or surrogates, informed of student progress.
- Each campus will provide training to teachers, parents, and other school staff in positive communication activities that can be used between teachers and parents, teachers and students, and parents and students.
- Each campus will outline specific parental involvement activities that will be conducted during the school year.
- Each campus will hold regular meetings with parents, guardians, or surrogates to share information about the education programs, to share ideas concerning effective communication strategies, and to solicit suggestions for additional activities and improvement to existing ones.
- In situations where language translation is needed, the campus will make appropriate arrangements.

School-Parent Compacts

In accordance with Title I regulations, each campus must develop a parent-school compact with the parents of students participating in the Title I program. This compact will enable the school and parents to share responsibility for student performance and success. These parent-school compacts should be updated annually, with input from students, parents, and teachers.

- The compact will explain how students, parents, and staff will share responsibility for student performance and success
- The compact will explain how students, parents, and staff will share responsibility for promoting student achievement.
- All parents will be given a copy of the compact detailing the responsibilities that teachers, parents, and students have in helping students accomplish their goals. The degree of a student's responsibilities will vary by grade level.
- Parent/student signatures will not be required; however, parents are encouraged to discuss the contents of the compact with their student.

Evaluation

Uplift Education will solicit feedback from parents concerning the effectiveness of the Title I programs in general, as well as the parental involvement activities in particular. The evaluation procedure will include an assessment of program effectiveness as well as a legitimate opportunity to make recommendations for improvement. The results of the evaluation will be shared with parents in a timely manner and will be a major component of the Comprehensive Needs Assessment that Uplift Education will conduct each year as part of its program planning.