

Chino Valley Unified School District

Walnut Avenue Elementary School

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2024

School Policy Engagement:

Walnut Avenue Elementary School recognizes that parents and family members are their children's first and most influential teachers and that continued parental engagement in children's education contributes significantly to student achievement and conduct. Walnut Avenue Elementary shall jointly develop with and distribute to parents of Title 1 and Non-Title 1 students a written parental engagement policy, agreed upon by such parents and updated periodically to meet the needs of parents and the school. This policy shall be an addendum component of the School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) that promotes a meaningful partnership between the school, the home, and the community.

Title I schools will convene an annual meeting to inform parents of Title I requirements and their right to be involved in the parental engagement policy and the school-parent compact of strategies to increase parental engagement. The parents of participating students will be involved in an organized, ongoing, and timely way in the planning, review, and improvement of its Title 1 program and parent and family engagement policy, and school-parent compact. The school will offer a flexible number of meetings and provide if requested, parents' opportunities for regular meetings to participate in decisions relating to their children's education and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible. The parent and family engagement policy and school-parent compact will be posted on the school website and distributed to all parents through traditional means of communication.

Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement:

The staff of Walnut Avenue Elementary School, in consensus with research-based practices, knows that the education of its students is a responsibility shared between the school and parents. The school's primary responsibility shall be to have an effective learning environment that enables all students to meet the academic expectations outlined in the CA Common Core state standards. Parents shall have the responsibility and opportunity to work with the school in a mutually supportive and respectful partnership with the goal of supporting their child's learning. The school-parent compact of strategies to increase parental engagement outlines how the parents, the teachers, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic and behavioral achievement. Walnut Avenue Elementary will provide parents with an explanation of the curriculum, academic assessment, and proficiency levels students are expected to meet. Through an *Action Team for Partnership* process, school staff, parents, and community members will jointly review, plan, and develop a one-year school-parent compact by grade of promising practices to increase parental engagement, including the six types of engagement listed below (*Epstein's Six Types of Parental Involvement*). The annual school-parent compacts will specify partnership activities for as many of the six types of engagement as possible. The school-parent compact will list district and school improvement goals and describe the "in the classroom" and "at home" strategies for teachers, parents, and students to implement. Walnut Avenue goals will include a school improvement goal in these three areas: English Learners, one academic area, and one non-academic area. The compact will list how the school provides two-way communication between home and school. It will also describe opportunities for parents to volunteer, observe, and participate in the classroom. Annually the school-parent compact will be updated by staff and parents based on formal and informal data. Also, annually, the *Action Team for Partnerships* will evaluate the effectiveness of the school's home-school-community partnership activities and celebrate successes. This shared responsibility will help the school and parents build and develop a partnership to help children reach or exceed the grade-level standards.

Walnut Avenue will support these home-school partnerships by using the following **six types of engagement**:

1. **Parenting.** We will promote and support parenting skills and the family's primary role in encouraging a child's learning at each age and grade level. All staff members will work effectively with our diverse families. Walnut Avenue will provide parents with workshops to educate parents on their role in education with topics such as AVID, PBIS, and technology.
2. **Communication.** We will communicate about curriculum, instruction, assessment, staff development, school programs, and student progress through two-way, meaningful, timely, and effective methods. At a minimum, annual conferences, reports on student progress, reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities will be provided to parents and family members. Walnut Avenue Elementary will communicate upcoming events and educational information in English and Spanish through online flyers, phone blasts, text message alerts through AERIES Parent Square, and our school website.
3. **Volunteering.** We will expand the recruitment, training, and recognition of family and community volunteers; we will provide families and community members opportunities to contribute from home, the workplace, and other community-based sites. Walnut Avenue Elementary will encourage parents to volunteer at school through PFA, SSC, GATE, and ELAC groups.
4. **Learning at Home.** We will promote family engagement in learning activities at home, including homework and other curriculum-related activities appropriate to the grade and development of the student. We will provide technical support to the best of our abilities; we will encourage the use of Office 365, Google Classroom, Accelerated Reading (AR), and DreamBox.
5. **Decision-making.** We will include students, parents, and community members as partners in planning and decision-making. We will encourage participation by parents and family members in decisions that affect their child's educational experiences and comply with state and federal laws and regulations pertinent to family engagement. Walnut Avenue Elementary will conduct regular ELAC, School Site Council, GATE meetings, and PFA meetings to ensure parent participation in the decision-making process.
6. **Collaborating with Community.** We will coordinate resources and services for students and families with businesses, agencies, service organizations, and other groups and provide services to the community through our volunteer efforts and community improvement projects. Walnut Avenue Elementary will maintain a Parent Information Center in the office to provide literature and brochures.

Building Capacity for Parent Engagement

The Walnut Avenue school staff is committed to partnering with parents in the following ways:

- assist parents in understanding academic content and achievement standards and assessment and how to monitor and improve the achievement of their children
- provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement
- educate staff, with the assistance of parents, on the value of parent contributions and how to work with parents as equal partners
- coordinate and integrate parental engagement with other programs and activities in our school and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children
- distribute information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to the parents of participating students in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents understand
- provide such other reasonable support for parental engagement activities under this section as parents may request

Accessibility

Our school, Walnut Avenue Elementary, and our LEA shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory students, including providing information and school reports required under Section 6311 in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.