

Chino Valley Unified School District

Edwin Rhodes Elementary School

School-Level Parental Engagement Policy

2016-2017 - Partnerships for Learning Network

Policy Engagement:

Edwin Rhodes Elementary School recognizes that **parents/guardians are their children's first and most influential teachers** and that continued **parental engagement in the education of children contributes greatly to student achievement and conduct**. A parent engagement policy for Title I (*Federal*) and Non Title I schools shall be an integral component of the School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) that promotes a meaningful partnership between the school, the home, and the community. Edwin Rhodes Elementary School will involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement process of the school's programs, parental engagement policy and school-parent compact. Title I schools will convene an **annual meeting to inform parents** the requirements of Title I and their right to be involved in the parental engagement policy, and school-parent compact of strategies to increase parental engagement. *Edwin Rhodes Elementary School* will provide parents with an explanation of the curriculum, academic assessment, and proficiency levels students are expected to meet. The parental engagement policy and school-parent compact will be posted on the school website and available for all parents through regular means of communication (i.e. student handbook, newsletters, parent center, parent corner in office). Annually the policy will be reviewed and revised as needed by staff and parents.

Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement:

The staff of Edwin Rhodes Elementary School in consensus with research-based practices knows that the education of its students is a **responsibility shared between 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 set forth 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 helping their children succeed in school. The school-parent compact of strategies to increase parental engagement outlines how the parents, the teachers/administrators, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic and behavioral achievement. This **shared responsibility** will help the school and parents build and develop a partnership to help children reach or exceed the grade level standards. The school-parent compact will list district and school goals and describe the "in the classroom" and "at home" strategies for teachers, parents, and students to implement.

Building Capacity for Parent Engagement

The Edwin Rhodes Elementary School staff is committed to partnering with parents in the following ways:

- assist parents in understanding academic content and achievement standards and assessment
- 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, in 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
- distribute information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to the parents of participating students

Edwin Rhodes Elementary School 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 children's learning at each age and grade level, and all staff members will work effectively with our diverse families. *Edwin Rhodes Elementary School* will promote parent academy opportunities offered by the district at the Parent Engagement Center. Our school will also host Parent Education Nights for parents. These nights covering topics, such as Family Literacy Night, Family Math Night, and SBAC Testing Night are designed to provide parents with information, tools, and strategies to help their children at home.
2. **Communication.** We will communicate about curriculum, instruction, assessment, staff development, school programs and student progress through timely and effective school-to-home, home-to-school, and school-to-community methods. An emphasis will be made to communicate effectively with those parents who have limited proficiency in English or literacy challenges. *Edwin Rhodes Elementary School* will communicate regularly with parents via weekly phone blasts using SchoolMessenger, our website, and written letters/flyers from the office, teachers, and PEP Club. Parent-Teacher conferences will be held at least once a year in October for every student. For students considered At-Risk, Parent-Teacher conferences will be held each trimester. The school marquee will also highlight upcoming events.
3. **Volunteering.** We will expand the recruitment, training, and recognition of family and community volunteers; we will provide opportunities for families and community members to contribute from home, the workplace, and other community-based sites. *Edwin Rhodes Elementary School* will hold multiple "Parent Volunteer Meetings" for interested parent/family volunteers. After attending the volunteer meeting, parents/adult family members will receive a badge so that they can volunteer in the classroom and on fieldtrips. Each year during Parent Collegiate Night (Back to School Night), each classroom will publish a sign-up sheet with possible volunteer opportunities. Some of these opportunities may include: Art P.R.E.P. parent, University Parent, Literature Day, Book Fair, etc.
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. *Edwin Rhodes Elementary School* will assign homework in accordance with Chino Valley Unified School District Board Policy. Our school will also host Parent Education Nights for parents. These nights covering topics, such as Family Literacy Night, Family Math Night, and SBAC Testing Night are designed to provide parents with information, tools, and strategies to help their children at home. In addition, teachers will provide usernames/passwords to students for at home use of online educational programs specific to their grade level, such as iXL, All the Right Type, and STMath (JiJi).
5. **Decision-making.** We will include students, parents, and community members as partners in planning and decision-making. We will encourage participation by parents/guardians in decisions that affect their child's educational experiences and comply with state and federal laws and regulations pertinent to family engagement. *Edwin Rhodes Elementary School* will solicit and welcome parent participation in various decision making groups such as: Proud Educators and Parents (PEP) Club, School Site Council (SSC), English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC), and the GATE-District Advisory Committee. Parents will also be considered active participants and decision makers in STEP and IEP meetings.
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. *Edwin Rhodes Elementary*

School will refer families who may be in need to the CARE office. The office has a list of community resources on hand to assist families when needed. Each year during the Read-a-Thon, the school invites community members to read to students in the classrooms. The school also participates annually in a toy drive during the holiday to support Isaiah's Rock (local charity in Chino) and collects donations for Leukemia patients via "Pennies for Patients".

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 or department level of promising practices to increase parental engagement to include the six types of engagement listed above (*Epstein's Six Types of Parental Involvement*). **These promising practices will be linked to specific school improvement goals and the school-parent compacts will be added to the annual SPSA.** The annual school-parent compacts will specify partnership activities for as many of the six types of engagement as possible. Edwin Rhodes Elementary School's **goals shall include strategies to engage English Learner parents, support academic and non-academic goals through parental or community partnerships, and develop a climate of partnership with ALL parents.** 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. The annual actions and services for families from the district Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) will be included in the compacts.

Annually, the *Action Team for Partnerships* will evaluate the effectiveness of the school's partnership activities, compacts, and policies and celebrate successes for the year.

Accessibility

Edwin Rhodes Elementary School, to the extent practical, will provide parents with limited English proficiency opportunities to fully participate in school-sponsored activities by **using translation at all meetings and workshops and by sending written notices and reports in a language (to the extent possible) that parents understand.**