

John and Jacquelyn Miller Elementary School
PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

John and Jacquelyn Miller Elementary School is committed to providing quality education for every child in this school. The purpose of the Parent Involvement Policy is to maximize the input and resources of the Miller School Professional Learning Community to ensure that children are fully supported in every area of their lives so that they are able to learn and achieve to their maximum potential. Everyone succeeds if home and school work together to promote high achievement for our children.

Theory of Action

If we hold ourselves accountable to provide effective common core standards-based instruction, actively participate in data-driven Professional Learning Communities, and offer quality, consistent good first instruction as well as response to intervention, then all students will achieve at high academic levels. Parents are partners with the school in the education of their children. By working with families and community members, students will be supported in their quest to achieve at their highest potential.

I. Policy Involvement

1. The Miller Parent Involvement Policy is jointly developed with, agreed upon by, and shared with all of the parents/guardians of participating children. This policy shall be available to the local community and distributed to parents/guardians of participating children in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents/guardians can understand. The principal or designee, jointly with parents/guardians of participating children, shall annually update the school's policy to meet the changing needs of parents/guardians and the school.
2. We will host annual meetings at convenient times, to which all parents/guardians shall be invited, to inform the parents of the school's participation under Title I, its requirements, and their right to be involved. Letters, Connect Ed calls, and/or fliers prior to the meeting will notify parents/guardians.
3. We will offer meetings using a flexible schedule, such as meetings in the morning, afternoon or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under Title I, transportation, child care, or home visits related to parental involvement. We will try to eliminate parental involvement barriers.
4. In order to make meetings convenient for parents/guardians, workshops and programs will be held at different times of the day. Meetings will be held at John and Jacquelyn Miller Elementary School.
5. We will involve parents/guardians, in an organized, ongoing and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of Title One programs, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school's parent involvement policy

and, if applicable, the joint development of the plan for school-wide programs pursuant to 20 USC 6314.

6. We will provide parents/guardians of participating children:
 - a. Timely information about Title I programs.
 - b. A description and explanation of 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.
 - c. If requested by parents/guardians, 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 practicably possible.
 - d. If the school-wide program is not satisfactory to the parents/guardians of participating children, we will submit any parent/guardian comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.

7. Observation in Classrooms

Parents/guardians are welcome to observe in their child's learning environment and are encouraged to do so. In order to keep classroom distractions to a minimum, classroom observations are limited to 20 minutes per district board policy. The principal or administrative designee may accompany parents/guardians during classroom observations. Parents/guardians are encouraged to arrange the observation with the classroom teacher 24 hours in advance in order to avoid disruptions during testing.

8. Parent Partner Volunteers

Parents/guardians who wish to volunteer in classrooms or to support other school activities are asked to submit requests and/or applications with the classroom teacher/coordinator. All volunteers must present a current (within 12 months) TB test prior to participating in volunteer activities on campus. Volunteers who are selected to support student learning or extracurricular activities on an ongoing basis must also complete the volunteer 'hiring' packet with HRS and submit fingerprints for background checks with the FBI and the DOJ.

II. Shared Responsibility for Student Learning and Academic Achievement

1. John and Jacquelyn Miller Elementary School has jointly developed with the parents/guardians of participating students a school-parent compact that outlines how parents/guardians, the entire staff, and students will share responsibility for student learning and academic achievement as well as the means by which the school and parents/guardians will build a partnership to help students achieve the common core state standards. The School Site Council (SSC) will annually review the Parent Compact and revise as needed.

2. This compact shall address:
 - a. The school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables participating students to achieve the common core state standards based on high expectations for student academic achievement.
 - b. Ways in which parents/guardians will be responsible for supporting their children's learning such as monitoring daily attendance, homework completion, television viewing; promoting positive use of extracurricular time; participating in school or community activities and family events.
 - c. The importance of communication between teacher and parents/guardians on an ongoing basis, through at minimum:
 1. Parent-teacher conferences, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as it relates to the student's achievement.
 2. Frequent reports to parents/guardians on their children's progress.
 3. Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to participate in their child's learning experience within the school community or observation of classroom activities.

III. Building Capacity for Involvement

Build the capacity of the school and parents/guardians for strong parent involvement by implementing the activities described in Miller School's SPSA Annual Growth Goal: "Increase parent involvement and participation by ten percent (10%) as measured by attendance at school-sponsored functions/events during each school year" (pg. 13 of 18).

The degree of parent involvement in a child's education contributes to his or her academic achievement and success in school. Parent and community involvement significantly impacts student achievement. Parent involvement includes parent participation with regard to students getting the support and encouragement they need from home. Parent involvement can be as simple as ensuring your children complete their homework, reading to and with your children, signing or providing required documentation, supporting your child's on-time and daily attendance, responding to Home-School communications, being supportive of disciplinary/behavior concerns and attentive to your child's progress in school. Parent involvement may also be more complex for those who are available to volunteer in classrooms during the school day to provide instructional support or serve on school councils such as SSC, ELAC, SAC, or PTO. Parents are encouraged to participate in school-sponsored functions such as Back-to-School Night, Open House, Student Recognition Assemblies, 'Coffee and Conversations about Student Achievement,' Title I Parent Meetings or 'Family Night' events. Increasing parent involvement, parent volunteers, parent leadership, parent participation and establishing parent partnerships between home and school are worthy goals for improving student achievement at John and Jacquelyn Miller Elementary School.