



## O.H. Stowe Family Engagement Policy



### Statement of Purpose

O.H. Stowe elementary school is committed to providing quality education to every student in the school. Partnerships with parents, family members, and the community are essential to this goal as neither home nor school can achieve this goal independently. Everyone gains if school and home work together to promote high student achievement. Parents and family members play an important role as their children's first teachers, and their support is critical to their children's success. O.H. Stowe intends to include parents and family members in all aspects of the school's Title I programs to create a school-home partnership that will promote student success. The school believes that establishing and maintaining open lines of communication will expand and enhance learning opportunities and create the best learning environment for every child.

### Develop Jointly

The O.H. Stowe Site-Based Decision-Making (SBDM) Committee is comprised of parents, members of the community, teachers, assistant principal, and principal. This committee will annually review the ESSA Parent and Family Engagement Policy and revise it as necessary.

### Build Capacity of Schools

O.H. Stowe will provide coordination, technical assistance, and other necessary support to assist and build the capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in the district in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

### Coordinate Services

O.H. Stowe will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other federal, state, and local laws and programs.

### Annual Evaluation

O.H. Stowe will assess the needs of the parents and children in the school community using a variety of tools including a survey or questionnaire. The findings will be used to revise the Title I program to meet the current needs. Workshops or other training will be made available to educators and parents to address these needs. Parents will be notified about training opportunities. The school's SBDM committee will review and evaluate all aspects of the parent and family engagement program. Parents will be asked for their input on the content and effectiveness of the Title I parent and family engagement programs through an annual evaluation of the Title I program. The evaluation will include an assessment of overall parent and family engagement and identify barriers to parent and family participation that still need to be overcome, needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning, and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The community will be consulted in the design, development, and implementation of the Title I program. Each year O.H. Stowe

will assess the needs of parents and children in the community through a variety of measures, including parental suggestions. The school will welcome and receive recommendations about the Title I program.

### **Design Evidence-Based Strategies**

O.H. Stowe through its Needs Assessment and Campus Improvement Plan process will use the findings of the annual evaluation to design and incorporate objectives that will lead to more effective parental involvement. The SBDM committee will annually review the School Parent and Family Engagement Policy based on the results of an annual review.

### **Involve Parents in Activities**

Parents can become involved in their children's education through a variety of ways. O.H. Stowe values both the at-home contributions of parents and those that take place at the school or in the community. Reading to children at home and talking with them at family meals or other families outings are as important as volunteering at school and serving on advisory committees. Many types of parent and family engagement are needed in school-home-community partnerships to help all children succeed. O.H. Stowe will provide information in a format and language the parents understand. O.H. Stowe will offer many opportunities for parent and family engagement in the school including, but not limited to the following:

- Parents may contribute through volunteer programs;
- Parents may participate by attending school meetings at a variety of times;
- Parents are invited to serve on committees;
- Parents are invited to develop trainings for educators;
- Parents are surveyed to get their input about school.

Parents will be informed of school activities through various avenues of communication throughout the school year. Websites, newsletters, teacher notes, the school marquee, conferences, personal contacts, phone calls/text messages, emails, and written notices will be used to establish and maintain open lines of communication with parents. The district will welcome and respond to efforts by parents to communicate with the school.