

Armstrong Middle School

Title I Family Engagement Policy

2023-2024

Armstrong Mission Statement:

Armstrong Middle School, an AVID national demonstration school, fosters an educational community centered in kindness and respect for all scholars who become collaborative and engaged learners in order to prepare them for the demands of high school and post-secondary education.

General Expectations:

Armstrong believes that student academic achievement requires a partnership with families and the community to support the following:

- An understanding of curriculum.
- Grade level standards.
- Assessments.
- District/school policies and procedures.
- Staff development and training in best practices.

Armstrong partners with district staff, families, and the community to strengthen student growth. Armstrong is committed to providing assistance to at-risk students. It agrees to implement the following requirements:

- With the help of families, provide programs and activities to encourage the involvement of parents in all schools with Title I, Part A programs.
- Work within the school to make sure the required school-level family involvement policies meet federal requirements, including a school-family compact.
- Armstrong will provide opportunities for participation of families with limited English ability, economic disadvantages, disabilities, limited literacy skills, any racial or ethnic background, or are migratory families.
- Information and school reports are provided in an understandable layout and, when practical, in a language parents understand.

Implementation of School Family Engagement Components:

Armstrong Middle School shall work in partnership with families to actively support and increase family engagement by:

- Respecting families as **partners** in the education of their children. Families are included in *policy decisions* and the development, evaluation, and review of the School Family Involvement Policy and Title I Program. The school policy is reviewed every year, discussed at the Family Engagement meeting, and posted on the [Title I website](#). Grade level goals and the state testing schedule are provided to parents. Students needing extra assistance are invited to participate in programs that support academic success.
- Encouraging a **welcoming** and **supportive environment** for all family members. Armstrong has a full-time *parent liaison* position to increase parent communication and build relationships and partnerships with parents and community members. Our campus has two *counselors* who support both student and family needs. *Our bilingual office staff* is expected to be welcoming

and sensitive to the needs of all families. Surveys are available for campus and district use to identify needs and monitor progress of program goals.

- Using federal, state, and local funds to support Armstrong's efforts to meet the needs of families through various district and campus programs. Examples include Community Outreach program (mobile computer classroom for parents), district/campus level parenting programs, adult ESL and literacy programs, etc.
- Valuing the need for **partnerships** between Armstrong and the **community**. Armstrong actively seeks resources to support academic and parent programs at our campus.
- Establishing and promoting **two-way communication** as a source of trust and understanding between Armstrong and families. This is accomplished through parent-teacher meetings, parent-principal meetings, e-mail (eNews), campus/grade level/classroom newsletters, campus and district web pages, phone calls, parent meetings, etc. Information and school reports are provided in an understandable layout, and when practical, in a language parents understand.

Families are asked and encouraged to be involved in their children's learning and education by:

- Participating in **educational opportunities** including strategies to reinforce learning at home, discipline, and understanding cultural differences.
 - Attending parent workshops to understand the state academic standards and how to monitor a child's progress.
 - Attending open house, parenting classes, ESL classes for adults, math / reading / science family nights, and computer literacy help to empower parents and improve student academic achievement.
- Participating in site-based **leadership** and **decision-making** through committees, PTA and the district/campus Site Based Improvement Committee.
- **Volunteering** in their children's schools through mentoring programs, field trips, classroom support, socials, athletic games, etc.
- Supporting **partnerships** within the community through participation in programs, such as local area restaurant fund raising, faith-based organizations, business partnerships, Plano Police Department, monthly food bank, etc.