

Thomas Elementary School

Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2024-2025

Thomas Elementary Mission Statement:

At Thomas Elementary, we celebrate diversity and are committed to providing excellence in education for all students. We empower our students to be caring, responsible, life-long learners with big dreams.

Student Pledge:

At Thomas Elementary, we are all unique, friendly, and enthusiastic about learning. We treat each other with kindness and respect. Together as a school, we help each other make our dreams a reality.

Our General Expectations:

At Thomas, we believe that student academic achievement requires the following;

- An understanding of the curriculum;
- Grade level standards;
- Assessments;
- District/school policies and procedures.

We partner up with families and the community to strengthen student growth. We are committed to providing assistance to at-risk students. We agree to implement the following requirements:

- With the help of staff, provide programs and activities to encourage the involvement of parents in all Title I, Part A programs.
- We work to ensure the required school-level parent involvement policies meet federal requirements, including a school-parent compact.
- Along with the District, we will provide opportunities for the participation of parents 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 the Thomas Family Involvement Components:

Thomas staff shall work in partnership with parents and guardians and shall actively support the school and parents to increase family involvement by:

▪Respecting families as **partners** in the education of their children. Parents/guardians are included in *policy decisions* and the development, evaluation, and review of the Thomas Parent Involvement Policy and Title I Program. The campus policy is reviewed every year, discussed at the Federal Programs Family Involvement Committee meeting, and posted on our [Title I webpage](#). 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 families. Our campus has a full-time *family liaison* to increase parent communication and build relationships and partnerships with families and community members. Our campus also has two *counselors* who support both student

and family needs. *Our excellent office staff* is welcoming and sensitive to the needs of all parents. Beginning and ending year *surveys* are available for our campus to use to identify needs and monitor the progress of program goals.

- Federal, state, and local funds are used to support our school's efforts to meet the needs of families through various district and campus programs. Examples include moving from early childhood programs to elementary campuses through our Ramp Up for Kindergarten program; 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 the **School, District, and the community**. Our school actively seeks resources to support academic and parent programs at our campus and our Community Outreach Program.

- Establishing and promoting **two-way communication** as a source of trust and understanding between our school and families. This is accomplished through parent-teacher meetings, parent-principal meetings, e-mail, SeeSaw, 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.

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

- Participating in **training opportunities** including strategies to reinforce learning at home, discipline, and understanding cultural differences.

- Attending parent training to understand the State Academic Standards and how to monitor a child's progress.
- Attending 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 the District Parent Involvement Federal Programs Committee, PTA, and our Campus Site-Based Improvement Committee.

- Volunteering** in their children's schools through mentoring programs, field trips, classroom support, etc.

- Supporting **partnerships** within the community through participation in programs such as local area restaurant fundraising, faith-based organizations, student banking, business partnerships, Plano Police Department, etc.