

Parent Involvement Policy

Ricardo Middle School

Statement of Purpose

Ricardo Middle School is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child. Ricardo Middle School will develop and maintain partnerships with parents and community members so that the best learning environment will be created for every child.

Grade level goals for the students are the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Some children may need extra assistance available through the Title 1 program, as well as other programs, to reach these goals. Parents, teachers, and students all have a part in working toward the goals.

Ricardo Middle School intends to include parents in all aspects of the Title 1 program. We want to create a school/home partnership that will help all students succeed.

Title 1 Law

The purpose of Title 1 is to improve the basic programs of Ricardo Middle School and to provide opportunities for students to acquire the knowledge and skills contained in the state content standards (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills-TEKS) and to meet the state performance standards (The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness - STAAR™). Districts receiving Title 1, Part A funds must implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in the Title 1 program. A written parental involvement policy must be developed and agreed upon and distributed to parents. Parental involvement is required as one of the ten components of the school-wide Title 1 program.

Parent Involvement in Developing the Policy

A site-based decision making team, consisting of parents, elected and appointed teachers, business members, and community members meet to develop the Parental Involvement Policy. Parent members are chosen from school volunteers who are willing to give this time and service to the campus.

Parent Involvement Opportunities

- ❖ A meeting will be held each fall to share mutual expectations for students so all parents are an integral part of facilitating achievement.
- ❖ Parents are invited to attend special programs or activities presented by students.
- ❖ Information is sought from parents of students receiving special programs services regarding campus planning and decision making.
- ❖ Opportunities are available to participate as parent and community representatives on campus and district improvement committees.
- ❖ A School-Parent Compact meeting affords the opportunity for input into school policies and practices.
- ❖ Parents are sent a survey to have input into the future of the school and its vision.
- ❖ The web page information site is www.ricardoisd.us

Meetings for Title 1 Parents

Each fall Ricardo Middle School has a meeting to inform parents of the school's participation in the Title 1 program and the requirements, as well as the parents' right to be involved.

Information about the school's performance, new Title 1 guidelines, the school curriculum, and other important information is provided. Written notices sent home, notices on website and newspaper will all be directed at attracting as many parents as possible.

Ricardo Middle School Title 1 Parent Compact

A school/parent compact will be developed by the site-based leadership team. The compact will describe the responsibilities of the school, the students, and the parents to improve student performance and the means by which to do so. The importance of good communication between school and the home is emphasized and procedures for such communication are included.

All parents will be given a copy of the compact detailing the responsibilities of all parties to help students accomplish their goals.

Needs Assessment Surveys

Each year Ricardo Middle School will assess the needs of the parents and children through a variety of measures including surveys, questionnaires, and parent interviews so that the Title I program can meet the needs of the community. Parents may call the Ricardo Middle School office at 592-6465 ext 18 to express interests or to make suggestions.

Staff/Parent Communications

Parent/teacher conferences are an important feature in communications at Ricardo Middle School. All teachers have a conference time and that information will be made available to parents. Parents are encouraged to call or email their child's teacher when they are concerned about a problem and teachers are also encouraged to call or email a parent when they are concerned about a problem. Important information regarding academics, special announcements and discipline reports are also sent to the parents.

- ❖ Parents are invited to conference with teachers during their normal conference hours.
- ❖ Parents of students that are failing at the end of any grading period are invited to conference with the students' teachers.

Assessment

FORMAL ASSESSMENTS – Norm-referenced test tell parents how their child compares with other students, often in terms of a percentile rank. Criterion-referenced assessments, such as the **STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness)** tell parents whether their child has mastered a body of knowledge and skills that the state has established as important.

INFORMAL ASSESSMENTS –This type of assessment is closest to actual learning and to children; and is therefore most likely to influence daily instructional decisions and to engage children in evaluation of their own work. When assessment and instruction are melded, both teachers and students become learners. From the information obtained, the teacher can determine the child's strengths and weaknesses.

Progress reports are sent home for students who are failing in any subject. Nine weeks report cards indicate the degree of mastery of a student's performance in the content standards, or curriculum frameworks of Ricardo Middle School.

Curriculum Framework and Content Standards

The state of Texas has developed a required curriculum that must be taught in Texas schools. This curriculum is the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). It is foundational in nature, and textbook companies strive to develop curriculum that meets those standards within the covers of their books. Mastery of the curriculum, apart from informal assessments within the classroom, is to be evidenced in the **STAAR** administered each spring.

Ricardo Middle School utilizes CScope to ensure our students receive a viable and rigorous curriculum. Many programs are available to help students perform at the maximum level of academic achievement.

- Accelerated Reader
- After school tutorials
- Computer technology in classrooms
- Counseling
- Dyslexia Program
- English as a Second Language Program
- 504 Program
- Gifted and Talented Program
- Living with Science Lab
- Optional Flex Days**
- Response to Intervention
- Science Fair
- Special Education Program
- Tutorials **and enrichment** within the school day
- UIL Programs (athletic and academic)

Evaluation

The SBDM committee will review and evaluate all aspects of the parent involvement program. Parents will be surveyed about the effectiveness of the program and offer suggestions for improvement. The evaluation procedure will include assessment of successes in the Parent Involvement Policy as well as recommendations for the improvement in emergent areas.