



THE COTTONWOOD SCHOOL

REIMAGINING COMMUNITY. RESHAPING EDUCATION.

The Cottonwood School

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

School Engagement Policy

The purpose of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy is to inform parents within The Cottonwood School of the policies, procedures, and opportunities for engagement as valued stakeholders in their students' education and success. It serves to identify the multiple ways to be involved in our school functions and the importance of ongoing communication and collaboration between parents, teachers, and other staff members. The Parent and Family Engagement Policy is a living document that is a collaborative outcome between school and parent input regarding best practices and opportunities to ensure student success and how student progress will be monitored and reported. This policy shall be an addendum component of the Learning Continuity Accountability Plan, LCAP, that promotes a meaningful partnership between the school, the home, and the community.

Parents will be involved in the development of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Our school seeks parent representatives for the Parent Advisory Committee annually. ELAC & DLAC Coordinators and PAC parent participants meet during regularly scheduled meetings throughout the year. All parents are encouraged to attend both PAC Committee meetings and school engagement events. The Parent and Family Engagement Policy is a regular agenda item of our parent group meetings throughout the year. A school-wide survey regarding the content, clarity, and accessibility of the plan is sent to all families through links sent directly to the home via email. It is available on our TCS website. Survey results are discussed at regularly scheduled meetings. Discussed revisions become part of the updated plan.

TCS Funds Parent Learning and Engagement Opportunities

The Cottonwood School allocates funds for parent and family engagement to ensure parent learning opportunities in state standards, social and emotional well-being, technology, blended learning availability, best teaching strategies, and ways to support student learning at home. Our PAC is welcome to participate in a multitude of virtual parent and family engagement learning activities throughout the year. Engagement opportunities include Mindset Mondays held all year long, our monthly MDIP workshops, the Science Fair in February, and all monthly Community Connection events. Communication is made frequently with the English Language Advisory Committee-ELAC, District English Language Advisory Committee-DELAC, and the Parent Advisory Committee – PAC.

During our committee meetings, opportunities to communicate the TCS LCAP and Federal Addendum are made on how state and federal funds improve schools' academic quality by implementing standards, effective instructional strategies, and assessments to monitor student progress.

Building Capacity for Parent Engagement

The Cottonwood School staff is committed to partnering with the school community to help parents understand academic content and achievement standards and assessment and monitor and improve their children's achievement. Material and training will help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, study skills, or learning in various academic subjects.

The staff will work with families to ensure that each student's work samples are provided and discuss what they are learning/learned in their classes. Parents will have access to resources (planners, Candid Conversations with Family Support Advisor, Community Cafe, and regular meetings with HST) to inform families of the high expectations and standards children are expected to meet each grade level. Adopted Curriculum Experts and Educational Design Experts provide parent training on curriculum, educational philosophies, content software, and parent portal access throughout the year.

Shared Responsibilities between School and Parents

The Cottonwood School will educate teachers, instructional support staff, with the assistance of parents and families, in the value and utility of contributions of parents and families and how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents and families as equal partners, implementing and coordinating parent and family programs to build ties between parents and families, and academic achievement.

The LCAP Stakeholder surveys annually will identify TCSs strengths and relative weaknesses and identify volunteer interests, talents, and availability, matching these resources to school programs. A volunteer recognition program will acknowledge activities such as events, certificates, and thank yous.

Parents will be informed of our communication systems and how to remain up to date using these communication systems. TCS will coordinate and integrate parent and family involvement programs with other federal, state, and local programs and conduct other activities, such as parent and family resource centers that encourage and support parents and families more fully participating in the education of their children.

Outreach

Through school-community partnerships, access will be available to facilitate families' community-based programs (e.g., health care and human services) to ensure that families have the resources to be involved in their children's education. Our community partners will be invited to share resources at annual open houses or during transitions such as Transitional Kindergarten to Kindergarten, sixth grade to junior high, and eighth grade to high school. See The Cottonwood School website for available resources.

Adoption

The Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been jointly developed and agreed upon with family members of children participating in PAC and DELAC/ELAC Meetings.