

**Union County High School
Parent Involvement Policy
2009/2010**

Statement of Purpose:

Union County High School recognizes the importance of parent involvement in reaching individual student goals for successful completion of high school graduation requirements. When schools work together with families to support learning, children tend to succeed not just in school, but also throughout life. In fact, the most accurate predictor of a student's achievement in school is not income or social status, but the extent to which that student's family is able to become involved in their child's education at school, at home, and in the community. Educational research clearly shows that parents who are actively involved in their child's learning increase their child's success as learners in and out of school (Riley). In our efforts to improve student achievement, Union County High School has established objectives and will implement strategies to increase parent and community involvement within our school. The high school developed the Parent Involvement Plan using input from teachers, parents, community and the school council. In an effort to facilitate this involvement a plan has been formulated and outlined.

The benefits of parental involvement for students include/but are not limited to:

- Higher achievement in academics.
- Better attendance.
- Positive attitudes and behavior.
- Higher grades and test scores with fewer placements in special education.
- Higher graduation rates and greater enrollment rates in postsecondary education.

Needs Assessment:

Parents and teachers will be surveyed at the beginning and end of each school year to identify areas of need and to evaluate the program. After the needs assessments are completed and evaluated, appropriate strategies will be implemented. A parent involvement committee will be established to promote parent involvement within the school and to assure strategies are implemented.

Parent Compact:

The School/Parent Compact will be developed to show support and participation from all stakeholders. All stakeholders will be asked to sign the Compact. Formal compacts between parents, school, and students will be employed to specify everyone's contributing role in reaching the individual student's goal. Parents of targeted students will receive a copy of the parent compact at the beginning of the school year for their signature. A Spanish version of this compact will be distributed to parents if needed. After reading and reviewing the compact with their child, parents will submit a signed form. Additionally, teachers will review the compact with their students.

Communication:

Union County High School understands the importance of ongoing communication between teachers and parents. School policy/involvement information is communicated to parents through the following means:

- Student Handbook
- Freshman Orientation
- Teacher Web Pages
- Advisement
- School Counselor
- Class Syllabus
- Parent Conference
- School website
- Parent Nights
- Newsletters
- Agendas
- Progress Monitoring Reports

Parent Meetings:

An annual meeting will be conducted with the parents of participating children to inform parents of 1) the Title I Target Assistance Program, 2) its requirements, 3) their right to be involved, 4) Parent Involvement Policy, 5) Principal/Teacher/Parent/Student Compact, and 6) all other topics as required by Title 1. In addition to the annual meeting, every nine weeks a meeting will be conducted using a flexible schedule to assess the Target Assistance Program and collect input from parents.

Information on School Performance, Student Assessment, and School Curriculum:

The School Report Card will be available to parents through the Governor's Office of School Achievement, which provides information about school performance. Student assessment is available to parents daily through the PowerSchool Website. End of Course Test results will be provided to parents. School curriculum information is provided to parents through advisement and letters to parents. Union County High School will assist parents in the understanding of the State's academic content standards, assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels on state and local assessments. Parents will be informed of their student's academic progress every six weeks, and a formal progress report will be sent home every semester. Parent/teacher conferences will be held at least annually to relate individual student's achievement to compact.

Parent and Community Correspondence:

Parents will be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of the Title I program. A written notice will be given to all parents of the students identified as needing program services. Union County High School will assist parents in understanding the criteria for selection into the program. A Parent Involvement Committee will be formed in order to enhance the involvement of other parents. The Parent Involvement Committee and the School Council will be involved in the planning process for the school program and revision of the school-parent compact.

In order to build ties between home and school, Union County High School will assist in parent programs. Parent meetings and workshops will be conducted to train parents in ways they can contribute to their child's progress. Literacy and technology training, as well as ideas, will be shared for monitoring attendance, homework and grades through Powerschool to help foster parental involvement and increase student achievement. A Parent seminar will be conducted to teach strategies and practical skills for raising responsible children. The seminar will help answer questions such as, "How do I get my child out of bed in time to catch the school bus?" Parents will be encouraged to participate in their child's class and to observe classrooms activities.

In order to build ties between home and school, parents will assist in the professional development activities of teachers and school staff in the utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners. The value and utility of parent involvement will be reviewed with new staff and through out the year in faculty meetings. Parent comments gathered though out the year at a variety of parent involvement events will be shared at faculty meetings and CSI (collaborative school improvement) meetings.

The Parent Involvement Policy will be sent home at the end of the preceding school year to upcoming freshmen (targeted students). The Parent Involvement Policy will be distributed at the annual meeting, sent home to parents, and will available for parent at the nine -week meetings. In addition, a copy of the parent involvement plan will be posted in the high school main office, attendance office, and posted through out the community. Ideas and concerns submitted to the school through out the year will be considered in a timely manner.

Efforts will be made to provide a supportive and effective learning environment by collaborating with the ESOL Department to facilitate the translation of pertinent information for parent in their native language. Parents and students with disabilities will be accommodated with collaboration of the Special Education Department at the school and district level. All parent involvement programs, activities and strategies will be shared with targeted assistance students including migrant, homeless, and vocational ed.

An annual survey will be sent to parents of Target Assistance Title I students as a means of evaluating the program. The summarized results of the survey will be shared with parents and used to review and revise as necessary the Target Assistance Program, Parent Involvement Policy and Compact. Any unsatisfactory parent comments will be forwarded to the LEA. The survey data will also be used to determine the need for other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as requested by parents.