

Component #6-Strategies to Increase Parental Involvement

“Not every teacher is a parent, but every parent is a teacher.”

Research and best practice indicate that there is a **direct link between school success** of students and the level of **parent/guardian involvement in the school**. At Brown Elementary many opportunities exist for parents to get involved in programs and initiatives that are directly, or indirectly, correlated to our Title I Schoolwide goals. Our **Parent Involvement Policy** is found below.

Brown Elementary School Parent Involvement Policy

Brown Elementary School **will adhere to the parent involvement policy** guidelines in accordance with the **No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Section 1118**. We will distribute and make this policy available to the parents of all of our students. As part of our **Title I Advisory Team** efforts, Brown Elementary will solicit parent input and revise and update our policy as needed. In addition, Brown Elementary will do the following:

- A. Our **Title I Advisory Team** (roster is in **Appendix A**), that consists of parents, teachers, community members, school board members and administrators will meet at least bi-annually to design, review, and revise this **Parent Involvement Policy** and **Student/Parent/School Compact (page 30)**. All parents receive these documents and are invited to an annual meeting to discuss the policies. The **Compact** is utilized to drive discussion at fall **parent-teacher conferences**.
- B. Host an annual parent meeting to share the information in the **Brown Annual Report**, which describes our mission and vision statements, school improvement goal statements and standardized assessment data. At this meeting (and a separate PTO meeting to accommodate parents who couldn't make the Annual Report Night-see Appendix A for parent roster) we also share our Title I Schoolwide Plan including this Parent Involvement Policy which was developed and reviewed by our **Title I Advisory Team**.
- C. Title I stipulations require that parents have the right to be involved in decisions effecting their children's education, and the school is required to seek input from parents in a variety of ways. Brown Elementary School will meet these requirements by using the following: a) **parent representatives** on our Title I Advisory Team and **School Improvement Steering Committee**; b) disseminate an annual survey to all parents to investigate the strength and effectiveness of our Parent Involvement Policy, academic program, home/school relationships, and other parent/student related topics (survey, **pg. 33**; survey results **pg. 34**); c) Parent surveys regarding satisfaction or dissatisfaction with our Title I funded Family Curriculum Nights (**Appendix C**) and **Parenting Skills Workshop**.
- D. Offer a flexible schedule of meetings to encourage greater parent attendance at all school events. We will do this by scheduling PTO, school programs, parent-principal forums, school improvement team meetings, and curriculum, career day,

- and parenting skills activities at a **variety of times of the day, days of the week, and months of the year.**
- E. Provide parents with timely and effective information in the following ways: a) school and classroom **weekly newsletters**; b) mid-trimester **progress reports and trimester report cards**; c) MEAP and other standardized test score **parent reports**; d) school **Annual Report Night**; e) district, school, and teacher **websites**; f) **parent/teacher conferences**; g) **Parent Curriculum Guides** describing in detail the academic requirements and coursework at each grade level; h) copies of **IEP and 504** plans; h) student **code of conduct** and other policies; i) school **marquis**; and j) phone calls and emails.
 - F. Clearly communicate curricular, academic, behavioral, and individual student assessment information *with all parents* by utilizing **TransAct** and county translators for **ELL parents**, school and teacher websites, newsletters, and other methods. We will accommodate **parents with disabilities** if additional assistance is needed with regard to communication. Brown Elementary is also **fully handicap accessible**
 - H. Give parents materials and training to help make school work fun and meaningful for our students. Some examples include: Family Curriculum Nights (Family Math, Family Science, Family Reading, Family Health), Career Day, Young Five Open House, and Parenting Skills Workshops facilitated by our school counselor and psychologist.
 - I. Provide support for parental involvement by allowing parents to volunteer in the building and in classrooms. Parents are requested to attend parent-teacher conferences, open houses, special events and assemblies. Parents are **encouraged to participate** in myriad ways, which allows for a rich partnership with parents and benefits the students and staff.
 - J. Sponsor many **pre-school related activities** to encourage parent involvement before their student even enters our school or district (see Component 7, **page 35**). The Huron District will provide **Head Start** to all eligible families.
 - K. Host an annual **Parent Volunteer Luncheon** to thank our volunteers and encourage them to stay involved. Last year a large portion of the **almost 200** parent volunteers attended.
 - L. The Huron School District Board of Education will work with district administrators to draft a District Parent Involvement Policy and share this with all district parents on an annual basis (**pgs. 31-32**).

To capture the essence of how much we believe in building positive relationships with our parents, the poem, “Unity”, has been incorporated into our Parent Involvement Policy. It is found below:

Unity
*I dreamed I stood in a studio,
And watched two sculptors there.
The clay they used was a young child’s mind
And they fashioned it with care.*

*One was the teacher,
The tools she used were books and music and art.
One was the parent
With a guiding hand and gentle loving heart.*

*And when at last their work was done,
They were proud of what they had wrought.
For the things they had worked into the child
Could never be sold or bought.*

*And each agreed she would have failed
If she had worked alone.
For behind the parent stood the school
And behind the teacher stood the home.*

There is a **place for everyone who chooses** to volunteer at Brown Elementary. **We welcome anyone** who shows a willingness to participate in both academic and social areas. We are proud of our parent connection policies and will continue to work collaboratively with all Brown parents.

Brown Elementary School
Huron School District
STUDENT/SCHOOL/PARENT COMPACT

STUDENT AGREEMENT

It is important that students work to the best of their ability. Therefore, Brown students shall strive to do the following:

- ❖ Come to school ready to learn.
- ❖ Finish school work and participate in classroom activities.
- ❖ Follow all school rules.
- ❖ Respect others and their belongings.
- ❖ Keep Brown school clean and safe.
- ❖ Set aside a regular time and place each night to complete homework.

SCHOOL AGREEMENT

It is important that students achieve. Therefore, Brown School employees shall strive to do the following:

- ❖ Provide teaching and leadership.
- ❖ Demonstrate care and concern for each student.
- ❖ Make efficient use of academic learning time.
- ❖ Use special activities in the classroom to make learning enjoyable.
- ❖ Provide an environment that allows for positive communication between staff, parents and students.
- ❖ Encourage students and parents by providing information about student progress.
- ❖ Give students strategies to increase competence.

PARENT/GUARDIAN AGREEMENT

Brown parents want their children to achieve. Therefore, they will encourage their child by doing the following:

- ❖ See that they are punctual and attend school regularly.
- ❖ Support the school in its efforts to maintain proper discipline.
- ❖ Encourage children to do their best.
- ❖ Stay aware of what is being taught.
- ❖ Encourage positive attitudes about school.
- ❖ Attend parent-teacher conferences and other school functions.
- ❖ Communicate effectively with teachers and/or school officials.
- ❖ Establish a time for sharing daily school experiences and/or completing homework.
- ❖ Read with their child and let children see them read.

Developed and Adopted by Title 1 Parent Advisory Group

Sincerely,

Patrick Bevier, Principal

Parent Signature _____

Student Signature _____

HURON BOARD OF EDUCATION

PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE SCHOOL PROGRAM

(Pursuant to state law the district shall provide a copy of this Parent Involvement Plan annually to all parents)

The Board of Education believes that durable and significant learning by a student is more likely to occur when there is an effective partnership between the school and the student's parents/guardians ("parents"). Such a partnership means a mutual belief in and commitment to significant educational goals for a student, a plan for the means to accomplish those goals, cooperation on developing and implementing solutions to problems that may be encountered, and the continuing communication regarding the progress in accomplishing the goal(s). To this end, parents should be meaningfully involved in:

- A. Developing and implementing appropriate strategies for helping their child achieve the learning objectives that lead to accomplishing the learning outcomes;
- B. Providing a school and home environment which encourages learning and augments, at home, the learning experiences provided by the school;
- C. Providing for the proper health, safety, and well-being for their child;

The Board is committed to communicating to parents at a level and in a language they can understand, where applicable.

The Board through this policy directs the establishment of a parent involvement plan by which a school-parent partnership can be established and provided to the parent of each child in the District. The plan must encompass parent participation, through meetings and other forms of communication. The plan could be incorporated into each buildings NCA plan.

The Superintendent shall direct the development of a Parent Involvement Plan for the District (with building/program specific goals as desired) which may include, among others, the following strategies:

- A. All parents will receive Annual Reports informing parents of the academic assessments that are used to measure student progress, assessment results, reading results, progress reports and report cards.
- B. Arrange flexible scheduled parent/teacher conferences and parent request conferences.

- C. Post parent involvement meetings, and parent involvement meetings in multiple communications when appropriate (i.e. district website, school newsletters, school marquis).
- D. Provide parents course description guides/curriculum handbooks describing the academic requirements/curriculum at each grade level.
- E. Through Trans-Act; schools will have access to translate documents in languages other than English.

Relations with Parents

The Board needs parents to assume and exercise responsibility for their children's behavior, including the behavior of students who have reached the legal age of majority, but are still supported by the parent. During the school hours, the Board, through its designated administrators, recognizes the responsibility to monitor students' behavior, and, as with academic matters, the importance of cooperation between the school and the parents in matters relating to conduct.

For the benefit of the child, the Board encourages parents to support their child's career in school by:

- A. Participating in school functions, organizations and committees.
- B. Supporting the teachers and the schools in maintaining discipline and a safe and orderly learning environment.
- C. Requiring their child to observe all school rules and regulations.

The Huron School District, as a recipient of Title I funds, directs the administration of Title I buildings to review and evaluate the Parent Involvement Plan annually and to share the results of that review and evaluation with the Board.

IMPORTANT!

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Parent Involvement and Perception Survey

As part of our **Title I Schoolwide School Improvement Plan** we survey our parents annually to determine their level of approval regarding our **Parent Involvement Policy** and other parent perception data. Please read our **Parent Involvement Policy again on the back** of this survey before filling it out. After completing the survey **return it to your child's teacher** no later than **Monday, May 4**. Every child returning the survey will be given **3 Bobcat Bucks** to be used at our **PBS School Store**. **Thank you very much** for your assistance in filling out this **short, but very important** survey!

Strongly Agree=4 pts. Agree=3 pts. Disagree=2pts. Strongly Disagree=1 pt.
(Please circle one choice for each item)

1. The Parent Involvement Policy captures the partnership parents have with Brown Elementary School.

a. Strongly Agree b. Agree c. Disagree d. Strongly Disagree

2. I am welcome at Brown Elementary School.

a. Strongly Agree b. Agree c. Disagree d. Strongly Disagree

3. Brown Elementary School works cooperatively with parents.

a. Strongly Agree b. Agree c. Disagree d. Strongly Disagree

4. If I am interested, I am given an opportunity to be involved in school activities, committees, and other initiatives

a. Strongly Agree b. Agree c. Disagree d. Strongly Disagree

5. My student(s) receives a high quality education at Brown Elementary School

a. Strongly Agree b. Agree c. Disagree d. Strongly Disagree

6. My student(s) is safe at Brown Elementary School

a. Strongly Agree b. Agree c. Disagree d. Strongly Disagree

If they exist, please **identify any barriers** (financial difficulties, disabilities, scheduling conflicts, limited English, communication breakdown, other) that have prevented you from participating in school events at Brown Elementary

Please return to your teacher before Monday, May 4. Thanks again!!
Mr. Bevier and the School Improvement Team

Table 1. Results of Parent Involvement and Perception Survey (number of respondents=165)

Rating Scale

Strongly Agree=4 pts. Agree=3 pts. Disagree=2pts. Strongly Disagree=1 pt.

Statement	<u>% of Responses</u>			
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The Parent Involvement Plan captures the partnership parents have with Brown Elementary School.	69%	28%	2%	1%
I am welcome at Brown Elementary School	91%	7%	2%	0%
Brown Elementary School Works Cooperatively with Parents	77%	21%	2%	0%
If I am interested, I am given an opportunity to be involved in school activities, committees, and other initiatives	87%	12%	1%	0%
My student(s) receives a high quality education at Brown Elementary School	80%	17%	2%	1%
My student(s) is safe at Brown Elementary School	74%	23%	2%	1%

Anywhere from 97% to 100% of our parents either strongly agreed or agreed with statements that involved the strength of our Parent Involvement Plan, relationships between parent and school, level of satisfaction with our educational programs, and level of safety of students. We are *very pleased* with these results but know we can show slight improvement in the areas of cooperation, quality of education, and student safety.

