

McCarty Elementary School
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McCarty Elementary Title I School Parent Policy

Parents are their children's first and most important teachers. Research tells us that parent involvement can impact a child's academic achievement. When schools welcome families, establish personal relationships among families and staff, help parents understand how the system works, and encourage family-staff collaboration to improve student achievement, students do better in school, and the schools get better.

McCarty Elementary is committed to being family oriented and to working as partners with our families to help our entire student population learn to high levels.

To be family oriented, **McCarty Elementary** will provide:

1. A welcoming environment

- Welcome new families, offer tours, and introduce them to staff and other families. Bilingual speakers are available to help families.
- Standards of welcoming behavior apply to all staff, teachers, assistants, bus drivers, lunch/recess supervisors, custodians, office staff and administrators.
- Visitors and callers are greeted politely, promptly and can get information easily
- Parents have easy access to family resources to use at home (e.g. professional reading, educational games, books for paired reading, etc.).

2. Programs and activities to engage families in improving student achievement

- Current student work is displayed throughout the building.
- Programs and activities help families understand what their children are learning and promote high standards.
- Parent/family workshops to show families how to help their children at home, based upon a needs assessment.
- Report to parents about student progress and how teachers, parents and community members can work together to make improvements.
- Host an annual meeting to review NCLB, school assessment data, goals and areas targeted for improvement.
- McCarty reaches out to identify and draw in local community resources that can assist staff and families (e.g. local houses of worship, businesses, charities and museums, etc.).

3. *Strong relationships between teachers and families*

- Communication is frequent and includes many formats including: parent-teacher conferences, phone calls, Connect Ed messages and written correspondence including newsletters and emails. Information will be provided in English and Spanish.
- Teachers connect to families and bridge barriers of language, culture and technology.
- Teachers learn about successful approaches to working with families of diverse cultural backgrounds.
- Meetings are held at times convenient for parents and are flexibly scheduled so that as many parents as possible are able to attend.
- The school is open and accessible, it is easy for parents to meet with the principal, talk to teachers and bring up issues and concerns.

4. *Opportunities for families to develop their skills, and self-confidence*

- The school seeks parents' ideas regarding parental involvement in the school.
- Provide volunteer opportunities for parents.
- Create a sense of community amongst the families.
- District and School committees and the PTA reflect the diversity of the school community and actively recruit and welcome families from all backgrounds.

McCarty will survey parents annually and based on the survey data, involve parents in the joint development of its school parental involvement plan. Parents, teachers and staff will annually review and revise this school parent involvement policy as needed.