

# Walt Whitman High School

## Parent and Family Engagement Policy

### **PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

Walt Whitman High School agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- Walt Whitman High School will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, Walt Whitman High School will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- Walt Whitman High School will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and the District will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- Walt Whitman High School will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

*Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—*

- (A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
- (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- (C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;*
- (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.*

**PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

1. Walt Whitman High School will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
  - Confer with parent representatives and volunteers from school site-based management team (SBM) and PTA members to gather parental input.
  - Conduct an annual review of the existing school wide involvement policy through feedback from parent members of the school community.
2. Walt Whitman High School will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
  - In the event that a school is cited for improvement, the school will notify parents, with assistance from the district, those children who attend a school identified as an improvement school and will follow all the steps required by the regulations.
3. Walt Whitman High School will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: Project Excel, VAP programs, etc.
  - Coordinating information sessions to assist transitions from high school to secondary/alternative educational pathways by working with the guidance personnel to support families, i.e. selecting classes, discussions about college/career pathways, internship information, etc.
4. Walt Whitman High School will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policy.
  - Based on parent feedback gathered from the SBM team and PTA members the school will develop practices to address the issues identified within the involvement policies.

5. Walt Whitman High School will build the parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

A. Walt Whitman High School will assist parents of children in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --

- the State's academic content standards,
- the State's student academic achievement standards,
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators:
  - Information will be provided to parents explaining content standards and expectations for student achievement through presentations, literature, newsletters, and/or parent conferences.
  - Information will be provided to parents explaining academic assessments shared during the year through presentations, literature, newsletters, and/or parent conferences.
  - Information concerning parent-teacher conferences and working with educators will be provided prior to scheduling conferences and will be discussed in parent meetings.
  - Information will be provided to parents describing Title I requirements and activities and programs at their child's school

B. Walt Whitman High School will provide materials and training, with the assistance from the district, to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:

- The school will support on-going parent involvement in activities by encouraging use of available educational resources online, e.g. Castle Learning and Albert.
- The school will offer various workshops/classes to improve student achievement:
  - Annual Curriculum Nights
  - Parent information nights to communicate expectations and provide information for helping their children
  - Updating information on the school's webpage
  - Annual ENL parent nights will be held, wherein parents of ELLs are provided with information about how to support their child's language and academic development.

- C. Walt Whitman High School will, with the assistance of its district and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:
- The school will confer and seek advisement from PTA representatives and parent volunteers to generate ideas for ways to connect with parents.
  - Administrators and instructional leaders will seek literature and workshops on parent involvement practices through conferences and other creditable agencies.
- D. Walt Whitman High School, to the extent feasible and appropriate, will coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:
- The school will collaborate, to the extent that it is feasible and appropriate, with the district's K-8 schools to support parent involvement activities.
- E. Walt Whitman High School will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:
- The school will work with district level personnel to ensure that information related to the school and parent programs/meetings is comprehensible and available in alternative formats upon request and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.
  - Parent information and resources will be available on the school's webpage, which is accessible through the district website, [www.shufsd.org](http://www.shufsd.org).

### **PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

In order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, Walt Whitman High School will:

- provide necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
- arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school.