

Cottonwood Elementary Parent and Family Engagement Plan 2022-2023

Parent and Family engagement in developing and reviewing school plans

Our School Improvement Plan (SIP) guides our instruction to help ensure student success. Planning an annual review of the SIP involves a staff team. All caregivers are welcome to review the plan at any time during the year. Our SIP is available on our Cottonwood website. If caregivers have concerns about the Title interventions, they are encouraged to talk with the Principal, Student Support Specialist or Reading Specialist.

Providing families and parents with information throughout the year

A copy of the Building Family and Parent Engagement Plan is provided on Cottonwood's website. The SIP/Title I plan will be available for all parents to view on our website.

Caregivers were invited to learn more about the Title program during our Back to School event in August. Our Title Team provided information about our intervention program through conversations with families. A brochure outlining the program was provided. Families receive more information about intervention services through our fall conferences. A table with information about our Title program is available for all of our families.

Parents will receive the Cottonwood Title I School-Parent Compact at this time and have an opportunity to give input on school, parent and student strategies. The compact outlines how parents, school staff and students share responsibility for student achievement in meeting academic standards.

Caregivers are informed when a student is invited to participate in a school intervention. This is done in writing and shared with caregivers prior to the intervention beginning through the classroom teacher as well as a letter sent home with the child. Caregivers are informed of the type of intervention the child is receiving, and how and when the student will be progress monitored. The classroom teacher will share progress with caregivers, as needed, based on ongoing assessments.

During October conferences caregivers are invited to ask questions about the program as classroom information is shared and student progress is noted. Caregivers are also encouraged to share insight about their child and how he/she best learns. Staff and caregivers both have valuable information to share in order to help the child succeed.

Information about curriculum, assessments, and programs is provided throughout the year through newsletters, emails, social media, and letters.

Cottonwood actively seeks to find and implement alternative means of communication

in order to reach out to caregivers and community members.

Effective family and parent engagement to improve achievement

Caregivers are encouraged to request meetings, provide suggestions, ask questions, and participate in their child's education throughout the year. We invite caregivers to be a part of all school activities including attending PTSA meetings. Caregivers also are encouraged to attend conferences with the classroom teacher, take part in Student Success Team meetings, and meet with the principal, student support specialist and other staff members. The staff members at Cottonwood are happy to work with caregivers to assist in the success of the student. We welcome suggestions and requests.

Interpreters for limited English speaking and deaf/ hard-of-hearing caregivers will be provided as requested.

Our Student Success Team is set up to meet weekly. Students can be referred by any staff member as well as by caregivers who have concerns about a child's success in school. This is a team effort involving the caregiver, student support specialist, school psychologist, principal, school counselor, classroom teacher, and any other staff with whom the child works. As a team we discuss strengths, concerns, and strategies. Interventions may be put in place to better assist the child, caregiver and teacher.

A variety of resources are shared with caregivers in order to support student learning at home. These include: online textbook tools, sites for homework and assignments, parent communication websites and programs, and school calendars.

Supportive School Climate

At Cottonwood we ensure a welcoming environment so that a caregiver is greeted with respect as they interact with the school. A focus at our school is building relationships with caregivers, students and our community. We strive to make sure that families know we value them as an important part of our school and we are working to build that relationship.

As we work with families, we focus on their strengths and common goals in areas of concern related to academics, discipline, and attendance.

Cottonwood recruits, maintains, and uses a resource list of community contacts who can assist caregivers from diverse cultural, ethnic, and language groups.

Families in need have been identified and multiple forms of support have been provided including Backpacks 4 Kids, additional food resources, holiday support, and other resources to reduce barriers and to provide as much as possible during the pandemic.