

Angus Elementary School
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PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Angus Elementary agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- Angus Elementary will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents (in with) Title 1 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.
- Consistent with Section 1118, Angus Elementary will work to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of Section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- Angus Elementary will incorporate this school parental involvement policy into its school improvement plan developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title 1 parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, Angus Elementary 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.
- If the school improvement plan for Title 1, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, Angus Elementary will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- Angus Elementary will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement and 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 an 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.

DESCRIPTION OF HOW SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. Angus Elementary will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its parental involvement plan under Section 1112 of the ESEA:

- Parents were invited to a meeting, held in the fall to discuss the Title I services, successes, failures, or concerns in regard to their involvement at Angus. This meeting and a follow up meeting in the spring will be held annually.
- Teachers will continue to take every opportunity to ask parents for feedback involving parent involvement at Angus.

2. Angus Elementary will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under Section 1116 of the ESEA:

- Lines of communication will continue to be open between administration, parents and teacher. The SIP Committee includes the entire staff and is led by a steering core group made up of the principal, teachers, a parent and a secretary. SIP data has been gathered from surveys given to parents, teachers, students, graduates, and members of the local business community. The staff has used this data to help develop our school improvement goals and to address concerns and needs.
- Teachers, the principal and parent volunteers serve on the District School Improvement Committee, Curriculum Committees, District Heritage Committee, and the Crisis Response Committee. School Improvement self assessment tools also help the staff to see how Angus fits into the “big picture”.
- Our PTO continues to be the voice of both parents and teachers; working together to ensure Angus is the best that it can be! The principal and teacher representatives attend the monthly meetings. Past goals are reviewed and updates of objectives are done on a yearly basis. Both internal and external stakeholders are engaged in formulating Angus’s priorities and goals.
- Teachers will include the topic of Parental Involvement on their agenda for Conferences, being sure to invite parents to participate in school, and asking for their suggestions on how we could make it easier for them to be involved.

3. Angus Elementary will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

- Technology opportunities will be made available to parents, allowing them to keep in touch with school, to stay aware of what is going on in school, what websites are available and secure, and how they can use the internet to support their child.
- With respect to our two-parent and working families, flexible scheduling of conferences and other meetings will prevail, whenever possible.
- Notification of classes offered or meetings scheduled will, if possible, be sent in a language appropriate for our population.
- Full utilization of our Bi-Lingual aides will be taken, using them to translate, or make contact by phone or in any other way necessary to ensure understanding of the information offered.

- Title I Funds will be used to pay for babysitting at our Latchkey Facility, so that parents will be able to attend the training classes offered.

4. Angus Elementary 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 1 School. 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). Angus Elementary 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 policies.

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

Angus Elementary will, with the assistance of its Title 1, funds, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described below.

- the State's academic content standards,
- the State's academic achievement standards,
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Title I,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators:

Angus Elementary 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:

Whenever possible, translations into appropriate languages will be completed in order that informational fliers can be understood by all parents. Our district family resource assistant will help with this responsibility whenever possible.

Title one funds will be set aside to cover expenses occurred when translations of documents are deemed necessary for the involvement and understanding of our parent community. Mrs. Khalida Kannu is often available as an interpreter for us.

Angus Elementary's Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with input from teaching staff and parents, with particular emphasis on parents of Title 1 students.

This policy was adopted by Angus Elementary during the school year of 2013-2014 and will be in effect for the period of that year, as well as next. Angus Elementary will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title 1, Part A children during the winter of 2013.

Angus Elementary will, with the assistance of its parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principal, 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 school by:

The staff will continue to listen to their co-partners (the parents) and refer any recommendations they have, to the principal. If there is a major area of concern, a speaker, an expert in the particular area, will be invited to our Staff Training Days, to help us understand and be better equipped to implement and coordinate parent programs.

Angus Elementary will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with the Parents, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, which was developed to provide parents the opportunity find books that will help them be the best possible parents. These books are for parents to borrow at any time.

TOTAL SCHOOL:

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT:

Held during first week of school, this evening gives the parents the opportunity to become aware of this year's expectations and responsibilities. It is on this evening that the teachers will make it clear they would like parental involvement in many ways, providing various opportunities for them to do. At this first meeting, teachers clearly outline expectations and processes that will be integrated during the year. Parents are shown how they can help their child achieve the outlined expectations. Parents are given the opportunity to ask any questions they might have, so that family and school are on the same page. At Meet the Teacher Night, teachers outline the many different opportunities available within the school to parents who want to be involved in their child's education. The teacher makes it clear that parents are welcome at Angus. We review parking lot and building entry expectations that keep our students safe. We ask for Library Volunteers, Computer Volunteers, Field Trip Chaperones, Camp Chaperones, Lunch Supervisors, Classroom helpers, and PTO activity volunteers

That same night, teachers will let the parents know they are eager to work with them, to help their child become the best that he/she can be. Teachers will explain that they can be contacted through phone messages, or e-mails, and teachers make it clear that they will be happy to meet with parents if ever the teacher or the parent feels there is a need.

TITLE I MEETING:

A meeting of parents of Title I students will be held in the fall and spring to discuss the Parent Involvement Policy and gather input from the parents on ways to improve the educational opportunities for our at risk students and foster a strong home – school connection.

CONFERENCES:

With current economic circumstances, it is necessary for both parents to work. Taking this into consideration, teachers are very accommodating, making sure to be as flexible as possible when scheduling conferences with parents. Conferences provide a one-on-one opportunity to ensure the parents know what is going on, and have the tools necessary to help their child. At Conferences, all parents are asked to sign a Parent-Teacher-Student Compact. This Compact is between the student, the teacher, and the parents. The responsibilities of all are outlined clearly on this Compact, and all three parties must read and sign their part. This clearly commands a commitment on the part of the student, the teacher, and the parent, and a promise to be very involved and to work together as a team, to help the child become the best that he/she can be.

SOAR ASSEMBLIES:

Angus holds school wide assemblies celebrating our school wide positive behavior plan, which allow the students, staff, and parents, a time to celebrate our successes and to honor people in the Angus family for accomplishments within the school and community.

NOTICES FOR ESL FAMILIES:

Memos and notices are sent home in other languages when necessary, but usually the students themselves work with their parents to be sure that they are understood.

LATCHKEY;

Angus houses a before and after school Latch Key program for children of parents who work. There is also a preschool and nursery school program at Angus.

RED RIBBON WEEK:

During Red Ribbon Week (Say "No" to Drugs!), various events are planned to promote a Drug Free Lifestyle.

SKATE NIGHT:

Teachers, students and their families, enjoy a fun, relaxing evening together, strengthening the bond of our Angus family.

SCOUTING:

Brownies and Girls Scouts are a part of the Angus Family.

NEWSLETTER;

Each month the school sends out the *Angus Eagle*, our school newsletter. Parents will find information on school events, important dates, student achievements, the lunch menu, a column by one of our counselors, and often articles on parenting skills.

STUDENT COUNCIL:

Representatives from each grade level participate in this student government, which helps guide our school on promoting monthly life skills, facilitates a recycling program and organizes various fund raising activities to help the needy.

PARENT TRAINING ACTIVITIES:

Angus Elementary will provide materials and training 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:

FIELD TRIPS;

Parent volunteers are used to supervise student field trips.

CANNED FOOD AND MITTEN TREE DRIVE:

Each winter we collect food, clothing and toys for contribution to Good Fellows.

SPRING CONCERT:

Students present a spring concert related to their music programming

PTO SPONSORED EVENTS:

PTO sponsors a series of family events. This includes: Winter Sing a Long, Fall Festival, Movie Nights, Mother/Son and Father/Daughter evenings.

Grade Level Programming

Following are different programs that have been created at various grade levels, to encourage the involvement of parents:

Kindergarten:

KINDERGARTEN KICK OFF

Parents and prospective kindergarteners are invited to meet the staff and partake in a kindergarten simulation. District mailings and the District web site keep parents informed of programs and important events. In the spring, a Parent Training Session is conducted for parents, prior to their child's entrance into Kindergarten. This Training session gives parents some of the tools they will need to guide their child in phonemic awareness, transitional writing, and math vocabulary.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER:

A newsletter is sent each month to notify parents of various activities within the classroom and highlights successes of students.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK:

Students have the opportunity to share important family facts that make them feel special. Parents assist the child in putting together their poster.

First Grade:

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER:

A newsletter is sent each month to notify parents of various activities within the classroom and highlights successes of students.

MARCH IS READING MONTH

Students and parents read together at home to earn recognition. Over the course of the month each student has an opportunity to take home an activity bag with a character related to this year's theme. This year the students have Chilly the penguin while they *Chill Out and Read*.

ACTIVITIES:

Parents are encouraged to support 1st grade teacher throughout the year. Parents are invited to handle/conduct different academic centers, make apple sauce, and join in/teach different games.

Second Grade:

READ AT HOME BOOKS:

Consist of students reading 7 nights a week, keeping a log of minutes read and title of the books. Parents sign at the end of week. Students receive recognition in their classroom

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER:

Students utilize Agendas to keep their school day organized and to increase parent communication/involvement.

SPELLING CONTRACT:

Each week spelling words are sent home along with a study plan to be returned on Friday.

PIZZA LUNCH:

Students meeting their reading goals at home participate in monthly pizza parties.

Third Grade:

STUDENT AGENDAS:

Parents and teachers read and sign daily.

MYSTERY READERS:

Parents are invited to read to classes during March is Reading Month.

Fourth Grade:

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER:

Weekly Newsletters are sent home to parents and www.schoolnotes.com is used to communicate with updates and activities.

STUDENT AGENDAS:

Daily agendas are signed by parents.

TEACHER WEBSITES

Communication is encouraged through classroom websites.

Fifth grade:

STUDENT AGENDAS:

Daily agendas are signed by parents.

TEACHER WEBSITES

Communication is encouraged through classroom websites.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION AT STORER CAMPS:

This outdoor education experience unites students, camp counselors, teacher, and parent chaperones with a common goal: to provide meaningful, rich academic and lifeskill opportunities in a novel setting. Parent Volunteers come to camp with the students.

EGG DROP:

As part of the science curriculum students' work in teams to produce a container that will protect an egg, parents work with their students to complete the task.

COLONIAL NIGHT:

Parents and students work together to research an occupation from colonial times. This project concludes with a celebration event where all students and parents are invited.

Carlie McClenathan, Ed.S.
Principal