



SOUTHWEST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Campus Parent & Family Engagement Policy 2019-2020



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

CAST STEM High School is a tuition-free, industry-led, career-themed high school in Southwest ISD. CAST STEM's innovative school model allows learners to learn by doing and gain real world experience through internships, job shadowing and mentorship opportunities, and is among the first of its kind in the state of Texas. CAST STEM focuses on a set of high-demand, high-wage industries, to include Engineering, Advanced Manufacturing Technology, Global Logistics and Supply Chain, and Power and Energy. Learners choose a career pathway based on career interest, setting personal goals and mastering learning concepts at their own pace. Learners tackle real-world projects and create tangible, cost effective solutions to the problems identified.

CAST learners graduate from high school with a diploma and up to two years of college credits, plus the opportunity to earn industry-recognized certificates and an associate's degree in addition to work experience. The comprehensive academic program offers a combination of blended learning, project-based learning, and work-based learning, freeing teachers to act as coaches and mentors, with class time structured around research, labs, and offsite experiences in the workplace.

The center of the campus is the relationship with parents, community stakeholders, and industry partners. These relationships are integral to the success of learners. Each learner is academically prepared with a specific plan that includes steps for success in college and career. Collaboration and feedback provide wraparound support for each individual learner.

PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN DEVELOPING THE POLICY

Parents, members of the community, and school staff will meet to discuss the design and implementation of the Parent & Family Engagement Policy. CAST STEM HS will actively recruit participation through various avenues of communication. Parent participation will strive to include a diverse population of members, to represent all families, during policy and decision making meetings. Meetings will be planned at flexible times and locations for stakeholders in the fall and spring. District personnel will provide guidance and support to campuses on development of their plan.

MEETINGS FOR TITLE I PARENTS & FAMILIES

CAST STEM HS will hold at least four meetings for parents during each school year. These meetings will be scheduled in relationship to the quarterly Curriculum Nights. In the first meeting at the beginning of the school year, parents will be informed of new Title I guidelines, parent & family engagement opportunities, and district initiatives. Copies of the district's current Parent & Family Engagement Policy will be distributed or posted. Parents and families will be encouraged to become involved in the revising and updating the policy annually. Volunteers will be recruited for the district-wide and campus advisory committees. In the spring, a meeting will be held at CAST STEM HS and open to the public. This meeting will review the campus plan, campus/district ratings, strategic plan updates, assist with campus/district comprehensive needs assessments/program evaluation. This meeting will be the time for parents and family members to adopt the campus Parent & Family Engagement Policy. All meetings will be held at a convenient time and location. Written notices and postings will be directed at attracting as many parents as possible to participate in this process.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACTS

In accordance with Title I regulations, each school must develop a parent-student compact with the parents of students participating in the program. This compact will enable the school and parents to share responsibility for student performance and success.



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The compact explains how students, parents, families, and staff will share responsibility for student performance and success. The compact includes activities or strategies on how students, parents, and staff will share responsibility for promoting student achievement. Members of the school's Campus Improvement Team (CIT) will be consulted in the design and implementation of the compact.

All parents will be given a copy of the compact, detailing the responsibilities that teachers, parents, and students have in helping students accomplish their goals after the first grading cycle. Student's responsibilities will focus on academic and social growth and success. Parent's/student's signatures will be highly encouraged after reading the compact with their student.

TYPES OF PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

The school will support various parent & family engagement activities as it strives to develop and maintain an effective learning environment for all students. Parents will be encouraged to contribute through volunteer programs at school, support school learning and behavior goals, as well as create a supportive home environment. The community may participate through various activities that promote student success. Campuses will support parents/families in building academic and social emotional knowledge to better support students. CAST STEM will hold technology classes for parents to support parental engagement. Parent/student representation on the Campus Improvement Team (CIT) will be used to provide feedback to the campus for enhancement. Each group will work collaboratively to develop and maintain parent & family engagement activities best suited to meet the individual needs of our campus.

MATCHING PROGRAMS TO THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY

Parent and student needs will be identified through surveys and parental feedback which will be used to create a successful parent & family engagement policy and compact. Workshops and programs will be designed to meet the unique student and parental needs of the Cobra community. Parents will be informed of engagement activities through our school office, personnel, campus newsletter, campus website, and various media methods such as campus social media outlets. The school welcomes parental suggestions and on-going two-way communication. Parents and community members may direct suggestions to our Administrators, Counselors, or Staff Members.

STAFF/PARENT COMMUNICATION

Parents will be informed of student's progress and opportunities for extended learning through various methods of communication throughout the school year and in a timely manner. Newsletters, conferences, phone calls, and written notices or mail will be utilized to establish and maintain an open line of communication. All teachers, front office, and staff members will receive annual training on the importance of parent & family engagement as well as effective ways to work with parents and community members. Annual training will occur in the first nine-weeks of the school year.

EVALUATION

Parents will be surveyed about the effectiveness of the program and offer suggestions for program improvement. The evaluation procedure will include a review of the Parent & Family Engagement Policy as well as recommendations for improvement in academic and parent engagement programs.