

Gentry Intermediate School Family and Community Engagement Plan Overview

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Gentry School District is committed to providing a research based model of parent and family engagement. **Epstein's Framework of Six Types of Involvement** provides support and encouragement for family and community engagement in the school.

Gentry Intermediate School encourages and provides **parenting skills** and opportunities for all families. The school's Parent Center offers and provides parenting support and specific topic information. The school provides information and various websites to assist parents in establishing home environments to support their children. Parents may request a copy of the detailed parent engagement plan or additional information by contacting Chelsea Sarratt, Family and Community Engagement Coordinator.

We have implemented numerous forms of **communication**. Bilingual liaisons, multi-language written documents and/or disability assistance are available at the school upon request. Parent/Teacher conferences are held at least twice a year, as well as a school web page and Facebook. Parents have access to email and an automated phone system, and common communication tools that assist in providing information to parents. The school-parent compact includes the school's and staff members' responsibilities, parent activities, and ways in which both should communicate about student progress. All parents can access an informational packet with additional communication, conflict resolution, and information supporting the student and family.

Gentry Intermediate School employs Highly Qualified Teachers who continue to engage in a minimum of 60 hours of professional development training and workshops, including at least 2 hours of Parent Involvement Strategies each year. Parents have the right to know the professional qualifications of their child's teacher. GIS will notify parents by mail if any teacher has not met state licensing requirements for the grade level and subjects in which the teacher is providing instruction.

All parents and individuals within the community are encouraged to **volunteer** in the school when applicable, or the Parent-Teacher-Organization (PTO). Parents will receive surveys for their input and volunteer ideas. Recruitment and organization meetings will be held explaining opportunities for volunteering and supporting the school. All parents are welcome to visit the school, when applicable.

Student grade level expectations and class information will be provided to urge **learning at home**. We encourage parents to participate in academic opportunities such as math, science and/or reading nights/days to learn ways to support students at home. The school will distribute a monthly newsletter to parents that is developed with updates and ideas supporting learning at home, as well as upcoming events. Ongoing home information will be provided throughout the year.

Our school's **decision making** process includes parents and advisory committees, representing our ethnic makeup. The school will strive to work with all parents in their child's academic decision making, as well as promoting parent partnerships in school recommendations and procedures.

We strive to partner and **collaborate with the community** to strengthen school programs, student learning opportunities, and provide access to resources for families. Parents and families will be continually informed of services such as tutoring, adult learning programs, health, recreational, community meetings, social support and other essential services.