Pershing Park Elementary School
Parent and Family Engagement Policy
2019-2020

The staff at Pershing Park Elementary School takes pride in doing what is best for students while promoting a love of learning and academic growth. All parents and family members are welcomed and valued. Our motto is, “I will do my best every day.”

Communication. We believe communication between the school and family is essential to student success. We are one of four bilingual campuses in Killeen ISD; therefore, our communication with families includes Spanish translation. Pershing Park uses a variety of ways to stay in touch with families such as a monthly newsletter, student planners, flyers, KISD TV channel, campus marquee, ConnectEd calls, a Pershing Park Facebook page and a school website.

Parents and family members may contact staff members through phone calls, notes, letters, emails, or the student planner. We encourage parents to contact their child’s teacher if there is a concern. If parents need any communication translated into another language, they may call the school. We will do our best to accommodate.

Parent and Family Member Learning. Texas has high academic standards which we will show parents how to access and understand. Parents will receive information on KISD assessments, STAAR and TELPAS (for ELL and bilingual students). We will help parents work with teachers and staff and log into the Parent Access system so they may monitor their child’s academic progress. Parents will learn strategies to use at home, including how to stay current with new technology. Pershing Park strives to offer meetings and sessions at flexible times and dates to include a morning and afternoon session so that parents who have other responsibilities may attend. If parents have a suggestion for a parenting class, they may call the office and ask to speak with our parent liaison. If parents would like to schedule meetings with teachers or an administrator, they may call the office at 336-1790, and we will be happy to help.

Little Pumas. Younger siblings of students or future Pershing Park students ages 2-4 are invited to come with their parents to the Little Pumas offered twice each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. During Little Pumas, our parent liaison provides activities that make learning a fun experience and gives parents tips on early reading activities to do at home.

Annual Title I Meeting. Our annual Title I Meeting is held in September each year. This meeting is offered at flexible times and dates, with a morning and afternoon session. All parents and family members are invited to attend. We will share how we use Title I funds to ensure that students are successful. Parents will learn about the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, the Home-School Compact and Parents Right to Know. We will explain our curriculum and how parents can be involved in their child’s education. We will review KISD academic assessments and our latest STAAR scores.

Title I Program Evaluation. Our Title I program is evaluated several times a year by our Site-Based Decision Making (SBDM) committee, which must include at least one parent representative. SBDM provides input on our Campus Improvement Plan and assists in making decision about how Title funds are spent. If parents would like to serve on our SBDM, please contact the principal at 336-1790. We value parent opinions and welcome all parents who would like to serve. An annual evening meeting is
held for the purpose of evaluating the Campus Plan and gathering suggestions for the upcoming year. If the school-wide program plan CIP is not satisfactory to parents, parent comments on the plan will be submitted to the Coordinator for State & Federal Programs”.

**Parent and Family engagement Policy and Home-School Compact.** Each spring, we enlist the help of parents to review the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Home-School Compact. Parents and family members are a crucial, required part of this process. We meet to discuss and make any changes to these documents for the next school year. Publicity about the meeting will be available in January. Both documents are posted on our website so that parents, family members and the community have access to them. Our website will allow you to translate any posted information into any one of 107 different languages. The parent policy is shared during our Annual Title I Meeting and is included in our Student Handbook. Your child’s teacher will contact you to arrange a conference to discuss the Home School Compact and give you more information about your child’s achievement. Parents have the right to participate in decisions regarding their child’s education.

**Volunteer Orientation.** At the start of each year and throughout the year, our parent liaison will conduct a volunteer orientation to outline Killeen ISD policies regarding volunteering in schools. If parents would like to volunteer, please contact our parent liaison at 336-1790.

**Staff Awareness.** Our campus staff receives training each year about the value of parent and family member contributions at school. We review the importance of building relationships with parents as equal partners to ensure all students are successful in learning. The staff is kept up-to-date about the parent programs we offer, their role in the success of parenting programs, and how they can encourage parent participation.

**KISD Parent and Family Member Classes.** Killeen ISD offers classes free of charge for English as a Second Language, computers, and GED preparation. Empowered Parents workshops and the Parent Academy are also available. In addition, parents may attend and participate in the KISD Parent Advisory Council. Contact the Special Programs Department at 336-0240 for more information.

*Revised May 22, 2019*