
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Connell 2017-2018

Connell Elementary School is committed to the belief that all children can learn and acknowledges that parents share in the success of their children. We believe that working together, as a team, is the key to our success at Connell. Parents, teachers, and administrators are encouraged to keep the lines of communication open between the home and school. We strongly believe that a child's education is a shared responsibility between the home and the school. Parents are encouraged to call, email, or write notes to teachers if there are any questions or concerns throughout the school year. Interpreters are available, upon request, to meet with you and your child's teacher(s). We view parents as important decision makers in the academic lives of their children. Elementary school students are at a particularly unique stage in their development and communication between the home and school is crucial. To this end, Connell parents, staff, and students meet jointly to develop our School Wide Parent Involvement Policy and Compact in the fall of each school year. Relevant workshops, programs, and activities will be offered to our Connell parents throughout the school year. We encourage all of our parents to take part in what our school has to offer. Parents are equal partners and we value their input.

The Parent Involvement Program will include a school-parent compact and support the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of the parent involvement program by parents.

- The *Parent/Guardian Involvement Policy* will be distributed to all families annually in the fall. It will be sent home with students. Additionally, the policy will be distributed to all new families upon enrollment throughout the school year, as well as being posted on Connell's website.
- Title I/PTO meetings for all parents will be held in the throughout the school year detailing the requirements of the Title programs as well as the rights of parents.
- Title I funds have been set aside to help facilitate a wide range of parent involvement activities, including childcare, home visit expenses to enable parents to participate in school related meetings and training sessions.
- Parent/Guardian meetings, conferences, and events are offered throughout the year and at various times of day to best accommodate parents' schedules. Family nights will provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve academic achievement and will be funded by Title I funds.
- Parents/Guardians are informed annually of the *School-wide* requirements and guidelines, as well as expected academic proficiency levels and individual student assessment results (including state assessments). Communication regarding *School-wide* guidelines occurs through family events, parent-teacher conferences, resources sent home, and the school/district website. Information regarding student academic performance and proficiency levels occurs during parent-teacher conferences.



- Timely responses are provided to all questions and suggestions. Families are invited and encouraged to participate in the education of their child through participation in *Parent/Guardian Engagement & activities*.
- The *School-wide Parent/Guardian Compact* (found on back) commits parents/guardians, staff, and students to share the responsibility for improved student achievement. The compact outlines the responsibilities so that the parent/guardian, school staff, and student can work together to help children achieve high academic standards. It is reviewed in the Fall by parents and teachers and updated each school year based on input, then distributed to all families in the Fall.
- Connell provides many opportunities for families to develop home/school partnerships in order to promote the education of their students. Families are provided with support to monitor their student's progress. Student progress is monitored by report cards, assessment data, parent/guardian-teacher conferences, parent portal, Infinite Campus and home/school communications. Families are encouraged to participate and observe reading growth by reading with their child every day. Our school provides assistance to families on how they can participate in decisions related to their student's education.
- Connell parents are involved in the revising and editing of the school's Schoolwide Improvement Plan. All parents are welcome to attend Meet and Greet in the Fall and the plan is reviewed and discussed at the PTO/Title I Meetings.
- We encourage parents/guardians to participate in the *School-wide Parent Advisory Committee*. This committee meets annually to determine both the effectiveness and the barriers of parent/guardian participation. These evaluation findings, along with parent/guardian surveys, will be utilized to design the following year's program, and the results will be shared with all Connell families.
- All parents will be invited to help create, review, and provide feedback for the improvement of the school's Title I program at the end of the school year by completing a "Needs Assessment Survey". This survey will also allow parents to provide feedback on parent involvement activities and make suggestions to help guide staff professional development for the upcoming school year.

At Connell School, we will ensure the implementation of effective instructional practices across all classrooms through professional development, differentiating instruction, and flexible grouping.

Connell Elementary School

Erie's Public Schools

Title I Parent Learning Compact for the 2017-18 school year.

Connell School and the parents of students participating in activities, services and programs funded by the Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) agree that this policy outlines how the parents, staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a strong partnership that will help our children meet with the highest levels of success.

As students, we will....

- *keep our parents informed of school happenings
 - * return completed homework on time
 - *return corrected work to my parent/guardian
 - *report to school on time and ready to work
- *follow school rules and be responsible for my own behavior
 - *pay attention and ask for help when I need it
 - *always do my best

As parents, we will....

- *make sure our children complete assignments and homework
 - *make sure my child reads and writes on a daily basis
 - *get our children to school on-time and ready to learn.
 - *make sure my child gets to school on time
- *encourage our children to behave responsibly and treat others respectfully
 - *support teachers and educational decisions made in the classroom
- *make necessary arrangements when my child needs to stay after school for extra help sessions or study hall/detentions
- *attend school related functions like Open House and Parent Conferences
 - *check our children's progress on Infinite Campus

As teachers, we will....

- *make students aware of assignments to be completed and hold them responsible for meeting obligations
- *teach and model acceptance of responsibility for the positive and negative outcomes of personal behavior
- *keep parents informed of student progress, especially when the child is in danger of course failure (quarterly)
 - *hold parent conferences (both formal and informal)
 - *teach and encourage attentive listening skills

PLEASE BE SURE WHEN YOU ARE IN THE SCHOOL TO CHECK OUT THE PARENT RESOURCE AREA LOCATED BY THE FRONT DOOR.

If parents have a special request or need information on a specific topic, please contact one of our Title I School Wide Support Teachers or our guidance counselor Mrs. Kloss
874-4705

- If you move or change phone numbers during the year, please notify our main school office in writing.

- All Connell teachers offer opportunities for “extra help” at least once a week. Please encourage your child to take advantage of these support sessions.
- Increasing parent involvement is one of our school improvement goals at Connell. Please consider joining PTO and become involved.