

School-Level Parental Engagement Policy Whitehorse HS

Whitehorse HS has developed a written parental engagement policy with input from Title I parents. The Parent Climate Conference participants and the School Community Council determined the important points to include in this document and reviewed several drafts. We distributed the policy to parents of scholars as part of registration and reviewed the policy during the Open House of August 2025. The policy describes the means for carrying out the following parental engagement requirements [20 USC 6318 Section 1116(a)-(f) inclusive].

Engagement of Parents

To involve parents at Whitehorse HS, the following practices have been established:

- The school convenes an annual meeting to engage parents of scholars about Title I requirements and about the right of parents to be engaged. The annual meeting is part of the Open House.
- The school offers a flexible number of meetings for parents, such as meetings in the morning or evening. Any parent can meet with the principal, assistant principal, and/or counselor from 10-10:30 am every day. In addition, other appointment times are available, including times before school (as early as 6:30 am) or after school (up to 6 pm). The school provides a current progress report to each parent, over the front office counter. An explanation is offered, in Navajo as needed, and if the parent wants to meet with a teacher/assistant principal/counselor/scholar advocate/principal, a meeting is arranged.
- The school engages parents of scholars in an organized, ongoing, and timely way through our annual Parent Climate Conference, College & Career Readiness Days, and in the School Community Council. A needs assessment for the Comprehensive Guidance Program and a Stakeholder's Input Survey are conducted annually in order to review and improve the school's programming and planning to involve parents.
- Whitehorse HS provides parents of scholars with timely information about the Title I program via the school newsletter, website livefeed/news/events, Apptegy broadcasts, and our school's website.
- Whitehorse HS provides parents of scholars with an explanation of the curriculum used at the school through disclosure statements. The school mails information about the end-of-year tests and scholar proficiency levels to parents. Whitehorse HS is working to increase communication with parents about the assessments used to measure scholar progress (benchmark assessments) and the more clearly explain the proficiency levels scholars are expected to meet. Whitehorse HS will be working with a document in order to more fully detail the ways parents can help scholars to meet the increased learning levels demanded by the Common Core. Teachers host a classroom website where assignments are posted. The school has a diploma map so parents and scholars can visually see progress towards a diploma.
- If requested by parents of scholars, Whitehorse HS provides opportunities for regular meetings that allow the parents to participate in decisions relating to the education of their children. The school coordinates these meetings with teachers, the counselor, the scholar advocate, assistant principal, and principal.

School-Parent Compact

Whitehorse HS distributes a school-parent compact as part of the registration process. The compact, which has been jointly developed with parents, outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and scholars will share the responsibility for continuing to improve scholar academic achievement. It describes specific ways the school and families will partner to help children achieve the State's high academic standards. It addresses the following legally required items, as well as other items suggested by parents of scholars:

- The school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction,
- The ways parents will be responsible for engaging with their children's learning, and
- The importance of ongoing parental engagement with teachers through, at a minimum, quarterly parent-teacher conferences, mailed progress reports; accessible staff; opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate in their child's class; and opportunities to observe classroom activities.

Building Capacity for Engagement

Whitehorse HS engages parents in meaningful interactions with the school (ie: Parent Climate Conference, individual meetings with teacher/assistant principal/principal/counselor/scholar advocate, Parent-Teacher Conferences). Whitehorse HS supports a partnership among staff, parents, and the community to improve scholar academic achievement. To help reach these goals, the school has established the following practices to:

- Provide parents with assistance in understanding the State's academic content standards, assessments and how to monitor/improve the achievement of their children (ie: End of Year practice tests, "Shifts" document, explanation of End of Year scores and school grading).
- Provide parents with materials and training to help them work with their children to improve their children's achievement (ie: "Shifts" document, vocabulary words & definitions, vocabulary flashcards, vocabulary strategy practice like synonym wheels and crossword puzzles, access to online math practice).
- Educate staff members about the value of parent contributions, with assistance from parents, in how to work with parents as equal partners (ie: special presentations, conversations hosted by principal and parents/teachers).
- Coordinate/integrate the parental engagement program with Federal, State, Tribal, and local programs, and conduct other activities, such as Parent Teacher Home Visits and liaison conversations during school and in the evenings.
- Use invitational language when distributing information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to parents in a format and language that the parents understand (to include school website, email blast, school website with livefeed/news/events, postcards, and flyers).
- Provide support for parental engagement activities requested by parents.

Accessibility

Whitehorse HS provides opportunities for the participation of all parents, including parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory scholars. The school makes every attempt to provide information and school reports in a format and language that parents understand.