

# **Walter Bracken STEAM Academy**

## **Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

**2019-2020**

It is the belief of the administration, staff, and parents of Bracken ES that when parents are present and active in their child's education, their children have a greater chance for success with the educational expectations given.

This policy has been jointly developed and agreed upon by the administration, staff, and parents of the students at Walter Bracken STEAM Academy. The school will convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time for parents to evaluate this policy and review the rights and responsibilities of parents and students. This meeting will be held on August 28, 2019. Books and activity packets will be available for those parents with small children. The school's Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be distributed to parents in an understandable and uniform format and in a language parents can easily understand. Those not in attendance can find the information on the school's website.

### **District Wide Parent Survey Data:**

97% of Bracken's parents believe that the teachers at Bracken cared about their children. 96% of the parents felt their child was safe at Bracken. 97% of parents felt that the communication and engagement at Bracken was good. 12% of parents felt the school could improve on providing more information regarding how fundraising monies are being utilized.

### **Plan for including parents in the school review and improvement process:**

The administration and staff at Bracken ES invites all parents through month newsletters, emails, social media, the school's website, SOT meetings, and Parentlink to become involved in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's Title I programs, School Improvement Plan, and the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

### **Educational Involvement Accord:**

The Educational Involvement Accord is integrated into the registration process through Infinite Campus. Parents must review the Accord prior to completing their

child's registration. Administrators and teachers will have access to the Accord when needed for parent/student conferences or other occasions to review how parents can be involved in their child's education to review the responsibilities that the students have for becoming a successful learner.

#### Administration and staff:

1. Provide assistance to parents in understanding such topics as the state's academic content and the Nevada Academic Content Standards, state, and local assessments, the requirements of Title I, how to monitor their student's academic progress , and how to work with school staff to improve the achievement of their students.
2. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment enabling students to meet the state academic standards.
3. Offer parent involvement activities in the school that will include opportunities for parents to volunteer and be involved in school activities:
  - Staff development and parent education
  - Parents to provide home support for their children's education with access to online educational websites that are being utilized in the classroom.
  - Parents to participate in school decision making through participation and attendance at Site Council meetings, held monthly.
  - Effective communication between the school and parents through the use of website updates, social media updates, handouts sent home with students, and Parentlink.
  - Monthly family events
  - Participation in the WATCHDOGS program for adult male guardians that offer in-class assistance for all grade levels and security of the school property in between class involvement.
  - Daily gardening and the development of a gardening maintenance schedule, and information on establishing student gardens at home, proper use of tools and healthy eating habits for students, staff, and families.

4. Provide materials and training to families such as literacy, math, and technology to help improve students' achievement and to foster parental involvement.
5. Provide access to educational resources for parents to use together with their child(ren).

With the assistance of parents, FACES, and the Family Engagement Center staff, and administration will provide teachers and staff with on-going professional development and trainings in the area of:

- The value and utility of contributions of parents.
- How to reach out to communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners.
- Implementing and coordinating parent programs.
- Building ties between parents and the school.

The school will ensure that all information related to District and school programs and meetings are sent to parents in an understandable format and language that parents can understand.

#### **Coordination with other programs:**

The administration will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement activities with other federal and state programs such as our Read by Grade 3 grant, as well as the private and community resources such as our partnerships with the Las Vegas Rotary Club, and Green Our Planet.

The school will conduct other activities that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children. Opportunities are made available during the before school use of the computer labs. Our parent volunteer coordinator organizes the school's volunteers and schedules various trainings throughout the school year. Flyers are sent home and information is posted on the school's website to communicate these opportunities to parents and guardians.

The school will also provide reasonable support for requests made by parents and families as they received. Parents are encouraged to fill out evaluations and surveys to communicate with the staff and administration of Bracken STEAM Academy.