

Walter Bracken ES

Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2017-2018

It is the belief of the administration, staff, and parents of Bracken ES that when parents are present and active in their student's education, their students 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 students at Walter Bracken ES. The school will convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time for parents, to evaluate this policy. This meeting will be held September 5, 2017. The school's parent and family engagement policy will be distributed to parents in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents can understand.

School Wide Parent Survey Data:

Ninety-five percent of Bracken's parents believe that the teachers are committed to teaching the STEAM theme which will prepare their child for college and a career. Ninety-one percent of parents believe that Bracken's STEAM theme is clearly defined and integrated into all subjects.

The parents of Bracken STEAM Academy feel that the school could improve on providing more after school activities and clubs.

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

The administration and staff of Bracken ES invite all parents through newsletters, emails, social media, the school's web site, and the automated phone communication system to become involved in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's Title I programs, School Performance 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 and to review the responsibilities that the student has for becoming a successful learner.

Administration and staff will:

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 the student.
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 weekly,
 - Effective communication between the school and parents through the use of web site updates, social media updates, Remind, Class Dojo, Bloomz, handouts sent home with students, email distribution lists, and the District's parent communication system, Parentlink,
 - Monthly literacy events,
 - Daily opportunities to work in the parent volunteer center with creating handouts and materials for teachers of all grades,
 - Participation in the WATCH D.O.G.S. 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 development of a gardening maintenance schedule, information on establishing student gardens at home, proper use of tools and healthy eating habits for students, staff and families of all.
4. Provide materials and training – such as literacy, math, science and technology – to help parents work with their children to improve the student's achievement and to foster parental involvement.
 5. Provide access to educational resources for parents to use together with their children.

With the assistance of parents, FACES, and Family Engagement Center staff, the administration will provide teachers and staff with ongoing professional development and trainings in the areas 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 is sent to parents in an understandable format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand.

Coordination with other programs:

The administration will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other federal and state programs such as our pre-kindergarten programs and the Read by Grade 3 grant, as well as with 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 and the after-school use of the computer labs and library. Our Parent Volunteer Coordinator organizes the school's volunteers and schedules various trainings throughout the school year.

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