

# **Estes McDoniel Elementary School**

## **Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

### **2024-2025**

The administration, licensed and support staff and parents of Estes McDoniel Elementary School believe that student academic success is a direct result of the cooperative efforts of parents and school staff. Therefore, we pledge to work together to ensure student academic success.

The administration, staff, and parents at Estes McDoniel Elementary School have developed and agreed on this policy. The school will convene two meetings during the months of August & September, at a convenient time for parents, to evaluate this policy.

Although administration sends parent notification through ParentLink and ClassDojo each year, few parents (10 or less) participate in the district wide parent survey. In the future, we intend to add an incentive for students whose parents complete the survey. Our survey results are invalid due to the lack of participation.

The Estes McDoniel Elementary School Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be distributed to parents in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand. The policy will be reviewed at the Annual Title 1 Parent Meetings at Estes McDoniel on August 22 and September 24, 2024. The school invites all parents to become involved in the ongoing process of planning and writing the Continuous Improvement Plan and Parent and Family Engagement Policy by having parents serve on various committees whose work directly impacts school improvement. Parents unable to attend may access the Title 1 information on the school website.

The Education Involvement Accords are integrated into the registration process through Infinite Campus. Parents must review the Accords prior to completing their child's registration. Administration and teachers will have access to the Accords whenever needed for parent/student conferences or other occasions.

In order to build a strong partnership between parents and the school, the administration and staff will:

- Provide assistance to parents in understanding such topics as 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.
- Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment, enabling students to meet the Nevada Academic Content Standards.
- Through ClassDojo and ParentLinks, we offer parent involvement activities in the school that will include opportunities for parents to volunteer and be involved:
  - Parents are invited and encouraged to participate in PTA meetings and events: Turkey Trot, Spring Carnival, Movie Nights, Valentine's Dance, etc.

- Parents are invited and encouraged to volunteer in their child's classroom
  - Parents are encouraged to join our Watch D.O.G.S (Dads of Great Students) program. Watch D.O.G.S help provide positive male role models for the students, demonstrating by their presence that education is important. Meanwhile, we provide extra sets of eyes and ears to enhance school security, reduce bullying and provide a greater sense of campus safety allowing students and teachers to focus on learning and instruction.
  - Parents are provided home support for their children: School Bell, 3 Square-Backpack for kids, Shop with a Cop, and after school care at SafeKey.
- Provide materials and training – such as literacy, math, and technology resources – at Family Nights to help parents work with their children to improve student achievement and foster parental involvement.
  - Kindergarten families are trained and provided with our Race to Read: A Booklet for Parents of Kindergarteners program. This resource gives families tools and strategies for teaching reading foundational skills at home.
  - Provide access to educational resources for parents to use together with their children. All students have access to Clever, an online platform where students can access a variety of resources such as Lexia, Happy Numbers, Edmentum Exact Path, etc.

Parents are encouraged to message their child's classroom teacher, as teachers are in daily communication with parents through ClassDojo. Teachers can refer parents to the school counselor, who will follow up with parents to get personalized feedback.

With the assistance of parents, the administration will educate teachers and other staff on Staff Development Days in the following:

- 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 school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities are sent to parents in an understandable format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand.

The administration will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with private and community resources, pre-kindergarten programs, and other community family programs that encourage and support parents to fully participate in the education of their children.

The school will provide reasonable and substantial support for additional parental involvement activities that parents may request.