



GARDENA HIGH SCHOOL

Parent Involvement Policy

2009-2011

Gardena High School believes in the importance of good communication between the home and the school in building a successful learning environment for all students. It is our desire to provide multiple opportunities for parents, students and school staff to establish strong, meaningful and lasting connections.

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring –

- *that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
- *that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- *that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.*

This Parent Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, the Compensatory Education Advisory Committee, the English Learner Advisory Committee and the School Site Council.

PART I. SCHOOL PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY

Gardena High School has involved the parents of participating students in the joint development and agreement of its School Parent Involvement Policy and its schoolwide plan, in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner:

- Gardena High School holds monthly Compensatory Education Advisory Committee (CEAC), English Learners Advisory Committee (ELAC), and School Site Council (SSC) meetings to plan for the improvement of the Title I program.
- After annual elections are done for CEAC, ELAC and SSC, a review of the monthly meeting times and dates are then considered to accommodate participants' work schedules.
- The Parent Involvement Policy is distributed in the registration packets to each student or upon enrollment of all new students.

- The Parent Involvement Policy will be made available to local community agencies that request a copy.
- During the Spring semester of every school year, the school will collaborate with parent groups to review and update the parent involvement policy to reflect the changes in school culture and Program improvement status.
- Gardena High School will convene an annual meeting to inform parents of the following:
 - *That their child's school participates in Title I,*
 - *About the requirements and rights to be involved in Title I,*
 - *About the resources provided through their school's participation in Title I,*
 - *The use of phone master, letters home, and announcement in local newspaper to inform parents of time/place of the annual Title I meeting.*
- Gardena High School will provide parents of participating children with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
- Gardena High School will provide opportunities for parents to make suggestions and to participate in decisions relating to their child's education, (i.e. School Site Council membership, CEAC membership, ELAC membership, Parent surveys).
- Gardena High School will submit to the district any parent comments if the school wide plan is not satisfactory to parents of participating children:
 - *SSC will review such comments and consider ways to resolve the disputed sections of the school plan.*
 - *Parent complaint letters will be forwarded to the local district coordinator of categorical programs.*

PART II. SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HIGH STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Gardena High school will jointly develop and incorporate the school-parent compact as a component of its School Parental Involvement Policy:

- The parent compact is disseminated to returning students in the registration packet issued in August; and given to new students at the beginning of the school year in their enrollment packets.
- Signed compacts are collected and filed annually.

Gardena High School will provide a supportive and effective learning environment with high standards of conduct for all students.

- Gardena High School will provide student centered instruction based on California State Standards, district curriculum, and research based methodologies to address all learning styles and modalities.
- Gardena High School staff will maintain regular communication with parents about their student's academic progress and the school's behavior expectations; frequent progress reports are sent to parents.
- Gardena High School will provide parents with reasonable access to staff through formal parent/teacher conferences and classroom observations, as well as, opportunities to volunteer on the school campus.

Gardena High School parents will ensure that their teen attends school on time every day prepared to learn and has appropriate sleep, nutrition, clothing and school supplies.

- GHS parents will monitor homework completion; and collaborate with teachers, counselors and school staff in decisions relating to their child's education.
- GHS parents will set positive behavior and attire expectations and reinforce school policies about respecting people and property.

Gardena High School students will take responsibility for their learning by coming to class on time and in full disposition to learn, behave and cooperate with their teachers and peers.

- GHS students will maximize opportunities to understand the subject area material, using strategies that best support their learning style and completing and returning their assignments on time.
- GHS students will dress appropriately and behave responsibly by respecting the personal rights and property of themselves and others.

PART III. BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

Gardena High School, under the Title I mandate, is committed to building parent involvement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities:

- GHS will provide formal parent conferences twice a year. At these meetings parents are provided with information regarding their child's progress towards proficiency in the state academic achievement standards.
- GHS will provide information on student mastery of the state content standards through course-of-study letters, and on student progress through press reports and report cards, state and local assessment results, portfolios, and work samples.
- The school will, with the assistance of its district, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as Back to School Night; 9th Grade Orientation meetings; Senior Meetings; College Workshops; AVID meetings; CEAC and ELAC meetings; Beyond the Bell; Parent-Teacher Conferences; Open House; College Bound Dreams Project, district sponsored workshops (which include

communication techniques, parenting skills, literacy and math training), informational flyers and pamphlets, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.

- GHS shall present professional development to the entire staff on developing effective communication between staff and parents in order to promote an equal partnership between the home and school.
- The school shall maintain a Parent Center and conduct parent involvement activities and parent education workshops to encourage and support parents' participation in the education of their children.
- The school will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, disseminate information related to the school and parent-programs, meetings, and other activities, in an understandable format, and in a language the parents can understand.
 - *All school information is sent home via student, standard mail or the school's phone master system.*
- GHS will provide support for parental involvement activities as requested by parent surveys.

PART IV. ACCESSIBILITY

Gardena High School will provide opportunities for participation by parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, Title I parents, and parents of homeless students.

This includes providing information and school reports in a format, and when possible, in a language such parents understand.