

Pershing County Middle School
Parent Involvement Policy 2017-2018

In acknowledgement of reliable research proving that parental involvement raises the academic achievement of students, a major goal of Pershing County Middle School's Title I program is to encourage greater involvement of parents in the education of their children and build an effective home-school partnership. Parent involvement sometimes wanes as students enter middle school. We strive to structure activities that will appeal to parents and provide them with reasons to stay actively involved.

Parents will be informed of the school's participation in the Title I program, the requirements of Title I, NCLB, and their right to be involved or request parent teacher conferences. These conferences will review the available instructional objectives and programs, and will be offered at flexible times, as practicable.

A school wide Education Involvement Accord that outlines how parents, school staff and students share the responsibility for improving learning is distributed during registration of the student and discussed as needed during meetings with parents. Additionally, the Title I Aide Specialists staff the registration tables and provide information on the enhanced services made available.

We offer continuous communication to inform and equip parents with information on how to assist students with schoolwork and career/college planning. Parents are invited to attend informational programs on college and career opportunities, awards assemblies, Science Fair, Spelling and Geography Bees. Parents are encouraged to accompany students at the career fair, as well as the PCMS Career Day. Volunteers are encouraged to assist at the school, and to be involved in our community-wide 8th grade Job Shadow Day. Additionally, our school has a GEAR UP cohort, and parent outreach is a major component of this program. Every effort will be made to enhance communication with parents. Parent information and newsletters will be sent out in a timely manner, the GEAR UP facilitator contacts each parent with a personal invitation to parent nights. In an effort to honor and respect our limited or non-English speaking families, translations of written materials and translators for meetings and conferences are made available as practicable.

The handbook given to each student outlines school expectations for parents to read. The principal is always available, as are teachers, to review school curriculum, discuss test information and alternate assessments, offer tools for working with educators, and any other concern a parent may have. Students will receive progress report cards quarterly as a means to inform parents of academic achievement. In addition, every three weeks grades are monitored and notices of poor performance are signed by students and a copy is sent home. The Title I extra services mentioned above include informing parents of the daily afterschool tutorial available for their students to get homework help or work on projects and enrichment opportunities. As well, the daily assignments are collected and posted to the school website and/or emailed directly to parents if requested.

In collaboration with the community, we will continue to provide information related to resources and services available in our community to aid our families in need. More specifically, Pershing County Middle School collaborates with or refers parents to the following community resources: Nevada State PIRC, Frontier Community Coalition, DCFS, Domestic Violence Intervention, Rural Mental Health, Pershing County Multi-Disciplinary Team, Juvenile Probation Services, and other community organizations when applicable.

We will provide a flexible number of meetings and activities throughout the year, including at least one scheduled parent conference day. The purpose of these gatherings will be to provide information and assistance to parents to improve their children's academic achievement and prepare them for high school and college.

We endorse family participation in school decisions; accountability and advocacy participation in our Title I Program; and involvement with our Community Advisory Council. We invite parental input into the development and implementation of the parent involvement policy and school improvement plan. We welcome parents during the year to collect opinions, concerns, and suggestions for improvement and topics for meetings that meet the needs of parents. We will accommodate these suggestions for additional parental involvement activities in the development of our parent involvement plan as feasible.

We consistently encourage and welcome parent and community volunteers to become part of our school family. We also educate staff on outreach, communication, and collaboration in regards to working with parents as equal partners in the education of their children.