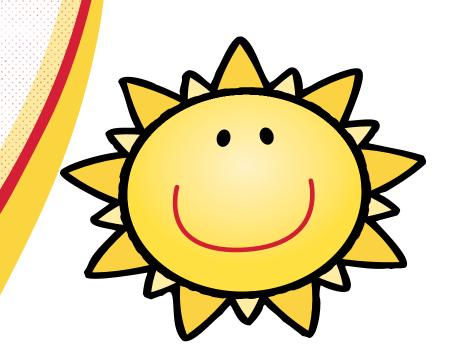
# Student and Family Handbook 2024 2025





OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# **Sunny Slope Elementary**

## Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for Behavior (MTSS-B) is being implemented in all Omaha Public Schools and Programs.

The Omaha Public Schools implements Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for Behavior (MTSS-B) to promote student use of positive behavior. Through this framework, Omaha Public Schools has committed to providing staff with tools and resources to positively engage students and families through implementation of school-wide positive behavior interventions. These practices are designed to support safe and encouraging learning environments.

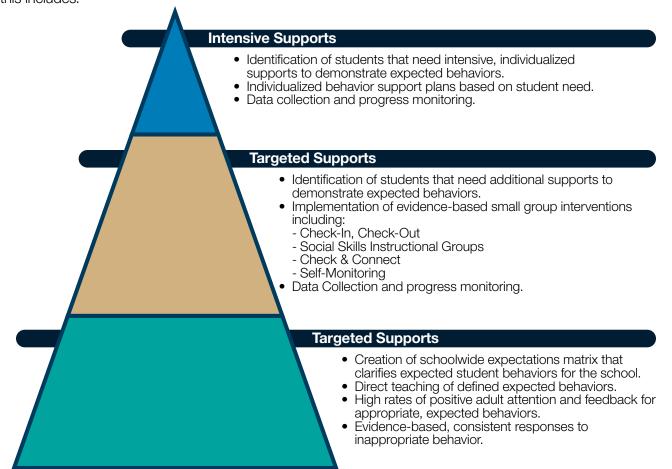
We believe that we cannot "make" students learn or behave. But we can create environments to increase the likelihood of positive behaviors occurring.

MTSS-B is a research-based, highly effective behavioral framework that is designed for teaching and reinforcing students' social, emotional, and academic learning skills in order to sustain academic achievement and support the social, emotional, and behavioral well-being of students. Consistent implementation of MTSS-B leads to:

- Improved school climate;
- Reductions in major disciplinary infractions;
- Improved academic achievement:
- Improved concentration, positive social behavior, and emotional regulation.

Omaha Public Schools is committed to supporting students through behavior interventions and alternatives to exclusionary practices that require removal from the educational setting where the safety of the student and/or others is not of immediate concern.

MTSS-B utilizes consistent practices that have tiers of increasingly intensive supports, and in our schools, this includes:



### **Social Emotional Learning (SEL)**

In addition to MTSS-B, Omaha Public Schools continues to support Social Emotional Learning (SEL) development through curriculum, strategies, and resources. SEL is defined by the Collaborative of Academic Social Emotional Learning (CASEL) as the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.

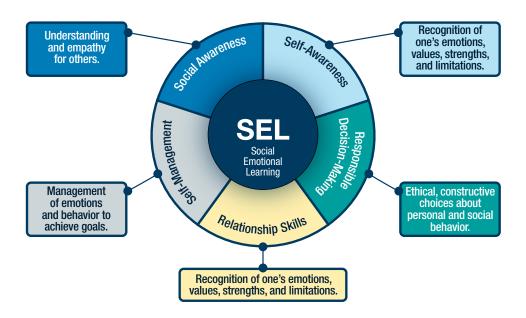
Within the Omaha Public Schools, our goal is to focus on CASEL's five SEL competencies:

- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management
- Social Awareness
- Relationship Skills
- Responsible Decision-Making

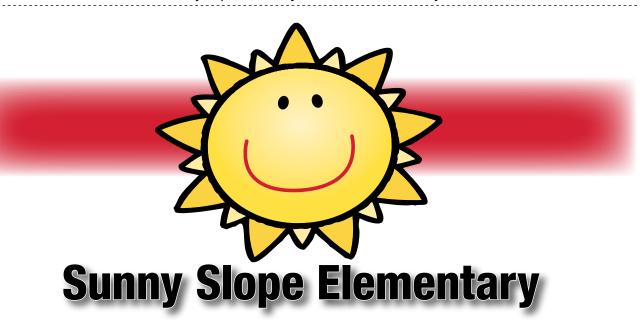
SEL promotes knowledge, skills, and attitudes that support lifelong success and advance educational equity and excellence.

### How do MTSS-B and SEL Align in all Omaha Public Schools and Programs?

MTSS-B and SEL are frameworks that work together to provide an ethic of care for students and promote success in students' academics, behavior, attendance, and overall well-being. Combined they create positive learning environments where students and staff are equipped with resources and skills for successful school communities.



If you would like more information about how MTSS-B and SEL are implemented in your school, contact the building principal.



### Student and Family Handbook 2024-2025

10828 Old Maple Road / Omaha, Nebraska 68164-2800 531-299-2160 / Fax 531-299-2178 / www.ops.org/sunnyslope

This handbook is prepared to serve as a guide to Sunny Slope Elementary students. In it you will find the policies and procedures that are followed at Sunny Slope We hope that you will find this handbook a convenient reference during the school year.



### **Mission Statement**

Omaha Public Schools prepares all students to excel in college, career, and life.

### **Vision Statement**

Every student. Every day. Prepared for success.

Omaha Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), marital status, sexual orientation, disability, age, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, citizenship status, veteran status, political affiliation or economic status in its programs, activities and employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following individual has been designated to accept allegations regarding non-discrimination policies: Superintendent of Schools, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (531-299-9822). The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director of Equity and Diversity, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (531-299-0307).

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### **Welcome to Sunny Slope Elementary**

I'd like to welcome you to Sunny Slope Elementary! The staff and I are excited about the educational program we have to offer you. We've prepared this handbook for you, the students, parents and guardians. We hope it is helpful to you as we begin a new year.

This handbook contains important **guidelines** concerning our school. It identifies our school rules which **ALL** students are responsible for knowing and observing. In the best learning environment, children are frequently reminded of expectations by **ALL** caring and nurturing adults in their lives. Parents help by sharing in the responsibility of making sure their child understands the information contained in this handbook and are role models for handling various situations. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the school, or better yet, come visit us soon.

We feel privileged to be able to work for you and with you as we undertake the task of educating your child. We have so much to teach them! Our children are precious to us. Thank you for entrusting us with them! Sincerely.

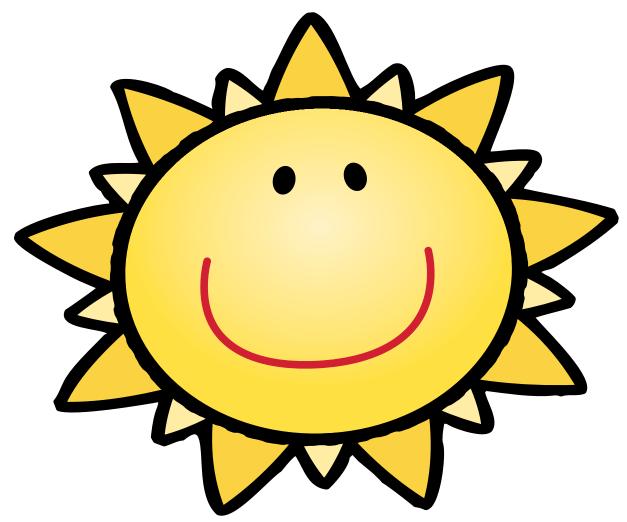
Maria Roden Principal

### **Sunny Slope's Vision**

To develop safe, responsible, and respectful learners today and leaders tomorrow.

### **Sunny Slope's Mission**

To empower students to recognize and optimize their full potential in order to be responsible and respectful learners.



### **Bus and Van Safety**

Some Sunny Slope students may qualify for bus or van transportation. Please make it a point to meet your bus driver. Many problems can be eliminated by good communication with the driver.

The basic rules governing conduct on the bus or van are as follows:

- 1. Follow all school expectations.
- 2. Remain seated in assigned seats throughout the ride.
- 3. Keep your area clean.
- 4. Keep hands, feet, and objects inside and to yourself at all times.

It is impossible to list all of the behaviors which would NOT be allowed on the bus or van; however, here are a few of the problems which frequently result in the student receiving a "Bus Conduct Referral."

- Not following directions.
- Hitting, scuffling, fighting, kicking, etc. anyone!
- Extending arms, head or objects out of the bus or van windows.
- Eating or drinking on the bus or van.
- Arguing or using profane language.
- Throwing, swinging or tossing books, book bags, lunch boxes, etc.
- Getting out of assigned seats.

Parents, as you discuss appropriate bus and van behaviors with your child, please emphasize the reason we have these rules is for THE SAFETY OF ALL CHILDREN. Explain to your child that ANY behavior which distracts the attention of the driver away from the road is a potential problem.

While each problem situation is handled individually, the following consequences have been established as a general guideline at Sunny Slope.

- First Bus Conduct Referral
   Child discusses the problem with the administrator or designee; reminders of rules and consequences are given and a solution to the problem is identified; a PARENT CONTACT, either a phone call or a written letter, is made to describe the problem and to enlist the parents' support and cooperation.
- Second Third Bus Conduct Referral
   Same procedures as outlined above. In addition, there may be consequences as a result of a student's actions (including suspension).
- Third Fourth Bus Conduct Referral Possible suspension from the bus or van for 1–5 school days.
- Fifth Sixth Bus Conduct Referral
   Possible suspension from the bus or van for 5 school days.
   Can result in permanent suspension from the bus or van.

### **Sunny Slope Elementary MTSS-B Plan**

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for Behavior (MTSS-B) is a problem solving framework for improving behavior in our school. With consistent implementation, MTSS-B will:

- improves school climate
- reduces aggressive behavior
- reduces major disciplinary infractions
- Improves pro-social behavior and emotional regulation
- Improves academic achievement
- enhances the perception of organizational health and safety

### **Sunny Slop Rules and Expectations**

At Sunny Slope, everyday we strive to do our **best** and nothing less!

### **All Learning Areas**

(Includes All areas of the Campus

### **Be SAFE**

- Keep hands, feet and objects to self.
- Listen to and follow directions.
- Quick, quiet and purposeful movement from place to place.
- Use furniture and materials appropriately.

### **Be RESPECTFUL**

- Use kind words and actions.
- Be considerate of others and respect their learning.
- Use appropriate voice level.

### **Be RESPONSIBLE**

- Be ready to learn.
- Report safety issues.
- Stay on task and use time wisely.
- Keep our school clean ("I spot it, I got it")

### **Hallways**

### Be SAFE

- · Face forwards.
- Single file line.
- Stay to the right hand side.

### Be RESPECTFUL

- Keep hands, feet off the walls and lockers.
- Voice Level 0, smiles welcome.

### **Be RESPONSIBLE**

- Go directly to your destination.
- Appropriate and quiet use of lockers.

### **Restrooms**

### **Be SAFE**

- · Feet on the floor.
- Wash your hands.
- Keep water in the sink.

### **Be RESPECTFUL**

- Give others privacy.
- Voice level 0.

### **Be RESPONSIBLE**

- Flush toilet after use.
- Get in and out quickly.
- Use Bathroom appropriately.
- Be Green:
  - 2 pumps of soap,
  - 1 paper towel,
  - don't let water run.

### Cafeteria

### **Be SAFE**

- Sit on your pockets, feet on the floor, facing forward.
- Eat only your food.

### Be RESPECTFUL

- Voice level 2.
- Use table manners.

### Be RESPONSIBLE

- Know your lunch choice before entering cafeteria.
- Take what you need (milk, food, utensils, and condiments) as you go through the line.

### **Playground**

### Be SAFE

- Use equipment appropriately.
- Be aware of activities and games around you.

### Be RESPECTFUL

- Be a good sport.
- Be respectful of others' games and activities.

### **Be RESPONSIBLE**

- Line up in a timely manner.
- Return equipment to appropriate place.
- Gather your belongings.

### **Arrival/Dismissal**

### **Be SAFE**

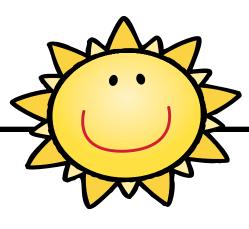
- Use crosswalks and sidewalks.
- Follow your before and after school plan.
- Walk to and wait calmly in designated area.

### Be RESPECTFUL

 Follow directions of supervising adults and safety patrol.

### **Be RESPONSIBLE**

- Know where you are supposed to go.
- Go directly to your destination.
- Arrive on time students are welcome at 8:35 a.m.
- Leave on time dissmissal is at 4:05 p.m.



When students are not displaying behaviors that are not safe, respectful and responsible the following produre will take place:

**1. Redirection** – A behavior / infraction occurs.

### **Action to Take**

- ➤ Teacher Proximity
- ➤ Give a look
- > Brief, private conversation

➤ Re-engage student

> Restate expectations

### 2. Chill Chair - The behavior continues.

- **Action to Take** 
  - Allow student to think and calm down in a non-punitive manner.
- > Student remains in the classroom.
- 3. PAC Positive Action Center PAC

The PAC provides students with a positive neutral environment in which they learn individual responsibility and problem solving.

The purpose of the Positive Action Center is to:

- **Teach** students to **accept** logical **consequences** for their behavior
- Provide students time to evaluate their actions
- Provide students with instruction and practice that stresses assuming responsibility and using problem solving strategies
- Assist students with realistic goals and a productive plan for classroom success

It is the **goal** of PAC to **build confidence** in the **students' ability** to apply the skills they have learned in the center to real life situations. Growth and individual responsibility in problem solving takes time.

4. Office Referrals – Used in instances of Code of Conduct violations.

Action to Take - Completed Office Referral with specific events noted, not personal feelings.

> weapons ➤ bullying

> kickina > biting

> stalking > fighting

> harassment

Office Referrals should also be used when the infractions continue after a PAC Referral.

### Classroom Visits - Parental/Guardian Access to the School

Parents are always welcome visitors at Sunny Slope!

Parents/guardians are encouraged to visit their children's schools, classrooms, assemblies, counseling sessions and other instructional activities. The district will encourage home and school cooperation by promoting clear, two-way communication with parents/guardians about the instructional program, and the child's participation and progress. Special notice is routinely given to parents/guardians regarding open houses, parent-teacher conferences, award and recognition ceremonies, school activities, certain assemblies, student programs, and other special events.

Parents/guardians are also encouraged to visit or monitor their children's classroom and daily learning environments. Parents/guardians and other visitors to the schools are expected to arrange such visits in advance. Visits to classrooms should not exceed 15-20 minutes.

Parents/quardians and other patrons of the district are welcome and encouraged to visit the schools. All visitors are expected to report to the principal's office to notify staff they are in the building or on school grounds. Visitors to the schools must respect the learning environment and maintain proper behavior and decorum. Disruption of the orderly process of the school is prohibited. The principal or his/her designee is authorized to deny access, ban or bar future access, remove or request the removal of any visitor whose behavior is disruptive to the educational/working environment of the school. Any visitor to the schools who have been denied access or who has been asked to leave may appeal to the Office of the Superintendent.

The superintendent shall formulate such practices and procedures as may be necessary to facilitate parent and other patron access to the schools while protecting the safety of students and staff.

As a general rule, juvenile visitors are not allowed in the classrooms during the normal school day. For safety reasons, all exterior doors of the building are locked during the day. If you wish to visit a classroom, please park on the south side of the building in the parking visitor area. You must stop at the security desk or the office to obtain a "visitor's pass" before going to a classroom. Even if you are a "familiar face" around the building, you still need to sign in.

### **Complaint Procedure**

If parents have a concern regarding a situation with their child at school, they are encouraged to follow these steps:

- Do not ignore problems or let them continue to grow and bother you and your child. We cannot help
  if we are not directly aware of the situation and your sentiments. Many times students and parents
  come to us **after** the problem has existed for some time. This makes every problem situation harder
  to resolve.
- Contact the child's teacher or bus teacher to discuss the concerns and possible solutions. Just as
  we try to teach children to talk to each other concerning their conflicts, we ask that adults model
  these behaviors by going to the teacher to initially seek a solution.
- 3. If the concern cannot be resolved with the teacher, the parent should then contact the assistant principal or principal. Your concerns are **always** important to us and we will make every effort to work with you to resolve problems.
- 4. If the parent feels the problem has still not been resolved, further recourse is available through the Office of Student and Community Services.

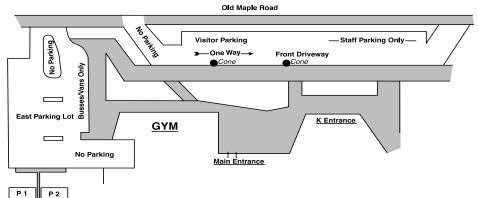
### **Drop Off and Pick Up Area for Students**

The safety of all students is the primary concern of the staff at Sunny Slope. Your cooperation to help us achieve this goal is necessary. As more and more parents bring their children to school, an orderly drop-off and pick-up is desired to avoid accidents and congestion. Please be patient, helpful, and follow all instructions given by adults on duty.

All drop-offs and pick-ups before and after school should be in the Front driveway area. The East parking lot is reserved just for school vans, buses and day-care vans. For morning drop-off please pull your car along the curb within the orange cones. All of the cars following should also move up. As soon as the single line cars comes to a complete stop, allow your child to get out on the curb side, even if you are not near the main school doors. Following this procedure should help move morning traffic along in a safe and more timely manner. If you want to get out of your car to assist your child, pull your car past the cones or pull into a parking spot. Do not allow your child to exit your car from the middle lane.

The front driveway is one way. Please observe the signs! Please do not park your car inside the cone area. This is for drop off only in the morning. If you need to leave your vehicle, park it in the parking slots available so as not to block the traffic flow.

As you enter the driveway for **AFTERNOON PICK-UP**, stay in the right hand lane and pull up as far as possible to the west to make room for others behind you to enter. Children must be picked up to the west end along the sidewalk! Children are not to cross unattended between cars. If you do not see your child when you pull in, feel free to drive around the loop again and re-enter. Remember that cars which are



not parked, but are picking up children, have the right of way over parked cars. Encourage your children to use the sidewalks and to follow all instructions of staff. Be careful not to block the driveway or the sidewalks when waiting for your children. Please do no leave your car unattended along the curb in front of the building.

### **Dismissal Instructions**

Please discuss with your child **before** they come to school what their dismissal instructions/procedures are. The office receives many phone calls daily with instructions for individual students about dismissal. It is disruptive to call classrooms to deliver these messages and it is cumbersome and time consuming for the office to deliver all of the messages. Please help keep our students' safe by having conversations with your child about how they get home each day. **Any dismissal changes must be made by notifying the office no later than 3:05.** 

### **Early Dismissal Request**

If it is necessary for you to take your child from school early, **please call the office.** Upon your arrival, your student will be called from the classroom, so as not to miss classroom instruction. Please wait by the office until your child comes from the classroom. Students leaving early are counted absent for the minutes missed during the school day.

If you are sending someone to pick up your child from school, notify us in writing that the child will be leaving with another adult. The note should state the name of the person who is to take your child, the date and the time the child is to be taken from the school. If possible, we will call you to verify the note. This way we will know that someone other than the parent is authorized to take the child from school. It is helpful if that person is listed on the emergency contact card. **No early dismissal request will be honored after 3:45.** 

### Field Trips

Occasionally, classes make trips to places of interest in Omaha. These visits are to places that are related to what the class is studying in school. This is a wonderful privilege for our students. Parents are welcome to accompany the class. Space may be limited on the bus, thus you may be asked to drive and meet the class at their destination. If you volunteered and no one contacted you, please remember we may have had enough help on that particular trip. Do not hesitate to call the teacher and ask. We do request that smaller children remain at home as you may be assigned a group of students from your child's class. We need those assisting, to work with the school students. You may be requested to fill out a volunteer sheet and have a background check several weeks prior to the field trip. The PTA assists in the cost of most field trips.

Your child will bring a permission card home telling you about the trip his or her class is taking. It is important for you to sign the card and return it to school with your child. If your child does not return the card, properly signed by you, he or she may not be able to go with the class on their trip.

### Lost and Found

If your child loses an article, please have him or her check with the office. It is wise to label articles with your child's name. Students should not bring toys or other personal items to school that are not necessary for learning. We cannot be responsible for such items if they are lost, broken, or unfortunately, stolen. If you find something, please turn it into the office. "Finders Keepers ..." is not in effect at Sunny Slope!

### **Notes and Newsletters**

During the week and throughout the year, notes and bulletins will be sent home. It is important that you read these items in order to be informed of school events along with looking at our school website, Class Dojo, and facebook page. Your interest in reading them will encourage your child to continue to bring them home. Be sure to ask your child for notes or check backpacks. Teach responsibility by encouraging your youngster to get notes home to you.

### PTA

What a great way for parents, teachers and children to work together! We strongly encourage you to join the Parent Teacher Association. Look for PTA sign ups and a listing of events after the first of the year.

### **Safety Patrol**

The Safety Patrol has been established for one reason—the safety of children. Patrol members are at their posts in hot, cold, wet, and snowy weather for that reason. Fifth grade students who volunteer to serve on Safety Patrol provide a most valuable service to our school. Students are asked to follow some simple rules:

- · Cross with the Safety Patrol
- Listen to the Safety Patrol for directions
- Don't push, shove, or run

- Walk while crossing the street
- Stand behind the Patrol while waiting to cross

Morning Duty 8:30 – 8:55 a.m. Dismissal 3:50 – 4:10 p.m.. Students on patrol either carry walkie talkies or are with an adult.

### **Safety Patrol Posts**

108th & Old Maple Road112th & Old Maple RoadDesignated school areas

### **Sunny Slope Elementary School Wellness Plan**

At Sunny Slope Elementary, our goal is to create an environment that promotes healthy choices for all students and staff. Students and staff will make positive choices about nutrition and physical activity throughout the school day. Staff will support positive lifelong habits for all students. These procedures along with the mission of Sunny Slope will help our school make health, wellness, and physical activity a priority with the support from students, staff, parents, and the community.

### **Birthday Treats**

All treats must be store bought and individually packaged. Please communicate with the classroom teacher ahead of time so they can give you the best time to bring or send the treats to school.

### **Classroom Snacks**

Snacks must be store bought and individually wrapped.

### Lunch

Carbonated beverages and fast food are highly discouraged in the cafeteria, during the day, or on field trips.

### **Classroom Parties**

Non-food centric games/activities will be planned for classroom parties. Candy may be given out at school but will be sent home for parent approval and consumption.

### **Physical Activity**

Students in grades K-5th will receive Physical Education classes for 50 minutes per week taught by a certified PE teacher. Student will also participate in 2 recess activities per day. In addition to recess time, teachers may provide activity "brain breaks" which can include "Go Noodle" time and classroom exercise breaks.

### **Water Bottles**

Staff and students are encouraged to bring water bottles or utilize the drinking fountains.

# Combined District and School Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Omaha Public Schools intends to follow the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy guidelines in accordance with federal law, Section 1116(a -f) ESSA, (Every Student Succeeds Act) of 2015.

### In General

The written District parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly with, updated periodically and distributed to parents and family members of participating children and the local community in an understandable and uniform format. This policy agreed on by such parents describes the means for carrying out the requirements as listed below.

- Parents and family members of all students are welcomed and encouraged to become involved with
  their child's school and education; this includes parents and family members that have limited English
  proficiency, limited literacy, are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities, racial or ethnic minority
  background or are migratory children. Information related to school and parent programs, meetings,
  school reports and other activities are sent to the parents of participating children in a format, and to
  the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.
  - · Back to School Night
  - · School Open House
  - · Title I Annual Parent Meeting
  - · Curriculum Night
  - Parent-Teacher Conferences

- · Reading Night
- · Math Night
- · STEAM/STEM Night
- · Family Game Night
- · PTA/PTO meetings & activities
- Parents are involved in the planning, review, evaluation and improvement of the Title I program,
  Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the School-Parent Compact at an annual parent meeting
  scheduled at a convenient time. This would include the planning and implementation of effective
  parent and family involvement activities.
- Conduct, with meaningful parent and family involvement, an annual evaluation of the content and
  effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Use the evaluation findings to design
  evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise the Parent and
  Family Engagement Policy.
- Opportunities are provided for parents and family members to participate in decisions related to the education of their child/children. The school and local educational agency shall provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities
  - · Climate Survey
  - · Title I Annual parent meeting
  - · Committee meetings

- · Development of the School Improvement Plan
- · Student Assistance Teams
- Parents of participating children will be provided timely information about programs under this part,
  a description and explanation of the curriculum in use, the forms of academic assessment used to
  measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards.
  The school will provide assistance, opportunities, and/or materials and training to help parents work
  with their children to improve their children's academic achievement in a format, and when feasible, in
  a language the parents and family members can understand
  - · The student handbook

· Standardized Tests results

· Curriculum Night

· Progress reports & report card

- · Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, with the assistance of parents in the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners.
- Coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State and local programs, including preschool programs that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.
  - · Summer Reading Program
  - · College and Career Academies and Pathways Night with The Empowerment Network

### **Parent Right To Know Clause**

At the beginning of the school year, any District that accepts Title I, Part A funding must notify parents that they can request information regarding their child's teacher and his/her qualifications, including certification and endorsements. Parents can also request information about paraprofessionals working with their children.

### **Sunny Slope Elementary School-Parent Compact**

This Title I School-Parent Compact has been jointly developed with parents and outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help students achieve the State's high academic standards. During student-led conferences, the compact shall be discussed as it relates to the individual student's achievement.

### Administrator/Teacher:

It is important that students achieve. We will:

- 1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment to enable students to meet the challenging state academic achievement standards.
- 2. Regularly communicate with parents on their student's progress.
- 3. Demonstrate professional behavior and positive attitude.

### **Parent / Caring Adult:**

I want my student to achieve; therefore, I will encourage him/her by doing the following:

- 1. Communicate and work with teachers and school staff on an ongoing basis to be involved and support my student's learning.
- 2. Support my student's learning—volunteer in their classroom; participate, as appropriate, in decisions related to their education, guide positive use of extracurricular time.
- 3. Make sure my student is at school every day and on time, unless he/she is ill.
- 4. Provide a quiet place and time to do schoolwork and encourage my student to complete schoolwork.

### Student:

I know my education is important to me. It is important that I work to the best of my ability. I agree to do the following:

- 1. Be at school every day and on time unless I am sick.
- 2. Come to school each day with a positive attitude.
- 3. Be responsible for my own behavior.
- 4. Respect and cooperate with other students and adults.
- 5. Return completed schoolwork on time.
- 6. Read at home.

Omaha Publ	ic Schools 202	24-2025 Caleı	ndar	

**Omaha Public Schools District Student Handbook** 

**Omaha Public Schools Student Code of Conduct**