Wayside Schools: Eden Park Academy is committed to the education of the children in our community. We feel parent involvement is an essential piece in ensuring that our students are successful in school. We believe that when parents are more involved in the academic process, school becomes more of a priority for their children. Wayside’s mission is to prepare college-ready, community-engaged, global citizens. This expression is not only intended to be utilized within our school, but is something we hope resonates in our community. It is our mission to produce a community of life-long learners. It is our pledge to maintain a good line of communication from school to homes and our goal to provide ample opportunities for parental involvement throughout each school year.

Wayside Schools: Eden Park Academy shall jointly develop with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy, agreed on by such parents, that shall describe the means for carrying out the requirements of ESSA Section 1116 subsections (c) through (f). Parents shall be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. Such policy shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school. Section 1116 (b)(1) & (e)(5)

A) POLICY INVOLVEMENT

1. Wayside Schools: Eden Park Academy shall convene at an annual meeting, at convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school’s participation under this part and to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved; Section 1116 (c)(1)

Our school holds monthly “Coffee with the Principal events.” At this time we will be holding these meetings virtually as we are currently in Stage 5. During a Fall “Coffee with the Principal,” we review with parents Title I School requirements and the school’s Parent Involvement Policy. In addition, the principal gives parents an update on the current status of the school and also facilitates a review of the school’s improvement plan.

2. Wayside Schools: Eden Park Academy shall offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, childcare, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement; Section 1116 (c)(2)
Parents are invited to participate in a variety of meetings and activities over the course of the school year. A Meet the Teacher Night is held in August to provide parents the opportunity to formally visit their child’s classroom to become better informed about grade level expectation and their student’s academic progress. Our Principal holds monthly Principal with the Coffee events (which at this time are virtual, however they will be in person once the ban is lifted from in-person events). We also hold annual “Back to School Nights” (which will be virtual until further notice) to additionally share this information. Families will be notified via communication sources: Facebook, Class Dojo, and Monthly Newsletter via Mailchimp. The Principal will facilitate these meetings. Childcare is offered on site for these events.

3. Wayside Schools: Eden Park Academy shall involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under this part, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan under section 1114(b) (Campus Improvement Plan), except that if a school has in place a process for involving parents in the joint planning and design of the school’s programs, the school may use that process, if such process includes an adequate representation of parents of participating children; Section 1116 (c)(3)

Our school annually invites parents to participate in review and revision meetings to examine and discuss our Campus Improvement Plan and Parent Involvement Policy. The school’s parent council consistently reviews school policy in an organized, ongoing and timely way. An organized PTA has been established in our school to create a forum for parental input and involvement. Our PTA affiliation connects our school to parental involvement resources at the state and national level.

4. Wayside Schools: Eden Park Academy shall provide parents of participating children—(A) timely information about programs under this part; (B) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and (C) if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible; Section 1116 (c)(4)

Our school communicates with parents often the state’s curricular and assessment expectations, school wide requirements in relation to the delivery of instruction, the techniques utilized to evaluate student work, and individual classroom rituals and routines pertinent to the academic success of our students. We use a variety of communicative techniques such as our Classroom Newsletters, Monthly School Newsletters, Facebook, Class Dojo, Communication Folders, Parent/Teacher Conferences, ARDs, 504 Meetings, PTA meetings, individual notes/calls home, STEM Night, Literacy Night, Back to School Night, Meet the Teacher Night, Surveys, Report Cards, etc. to solicit parent participation and deliver important information in hopes of creating productive dialogue between home and school concerning improved student achievement.
B) SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HIGH STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

1. If the schoolwide program plan (Campus Improvement Plan, CIP) under section 1114(b) is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency. Section 1116 (c)(5)

   In the Spring, the CIP develops a committee containing parent volunteers. At this time we will explain the CIP to families and seek their input as a Community Representative and Parent Representative. This ensures that families have an opportunity to have a voice when developing our CIP.

2. As a component of the school-level parental involvement policy, each school shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under this part a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement.

   The education of a student is not only the responsibility of the teacher, but also of the parent and the child. For this reason, a Parent-Teacher---Student Compact has been developed and is utilized in our school. This document serves as an agreement between all parties that they will adhere to certain duties and responsibilities to ensure the success of the student. It is reviewed and signed by all at the beginning of each school year. The signed compacts are kept by the teacher and used in student and parent conferences to remind each participant of their responsibilities. These compacts are also used to motivate students and parents to become more involved in the educational process and to let parents know that they are equal partners in their child’s learning.

C) BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

1. To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, shall:
   Section 1116 (e) (i) provide assistance to parents of children served by the school, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of this part, and how to monitor a child’s progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children; Section 1116 (e)(1)

   Our school will provide for this provision as stated in the Policy Involvement Section 4 of this document.
2. Provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children’s achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement; Section 1116 (e)(2)

Our school will provide for this provision as stated in the Policy Involvement Section 4 of this document.

3. Educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school; Section 1116 (e)(3)

Faculty and staff members will be cognizant of educational research on parent involvement. Parental input will be solicited throughout the year in meetings, through surveys, meetings, and during one-on-one conferences. Information derived will be utilized by the school’s Administrative Team to strengthen the tie between school and home for the purpose of increasing student achievement.

4. To the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children; Section 1116 (e)(4)

Field Trips and on campus activities are plentiful throughout the year and parents are encouraged to attend these events as often as possible. Scholars will have access to computers (Chromebooks) and Ipads to utilize educational resources.

5. Provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request. Section 1116 (e)(14)

Parents of all students, regardless of English proficiency, mobility or disability, are considered to be an important part of our learning community. All parents are afforded the opportunity to be involved in their child’s school environment. For this reason, if a special need is identified that would help a parent to more fully understand the educational process and the academic progress of his/her child, assistance will be provided to that parent. This type support often comes in the form of interpreted school documents in a parent’s primary language, having an interpreter on hand to translate important information at school wide meetings and events, working with an interpreter to provide translation in parent/teacher conferences, making available parent resource in our center that are in English and Spanish, participating in faculty and staff training to better understand the culture of the students served, providing easier accessibility to parents and/or students with disabilities, etc.