

PARENT AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN THE SCHOOL PROGRAM

The School Board recognizes and values parents and families as children's first teachers and decision-makers in education. The Board believes that student learning is more likely to occur when there is an effective partnership between the school and the student's parents and family. Such a partnership between the home and school and greater involvement of parents in the education of their children generally result in higher academic achievement, improved student behavior, and reduced absenteeism.

For purposes of this policy, the term "families" is used in order to include children's primary caregivers, who are not their biological parents, such as foster caregivers, grandparents, and other family members.

In cultivating partnerships with families and communities, the Board is committed to the following:

A. **Relationships with Families**

- () cultivating school environments that are welcoming, supportive, and student-centered;
- () providing professional development for school staff that helps build partnerships between families and schools;^{2,3}
- () providing family activities that relate to various cultures, languages, practices, and customs, and bridge economic and cultural barriers;^{2,3}
- () providing coordination, ~~technical support and other support~~ and to assist schools in planning and implementing family involvement ~~activities opportunities~~.³

B. **Effective Communication**

- () providing information to families to support the proper health, safety, and well-being of their children;
- () providing information to families about school policies, procedures, programs, and activities;^{2,3}

- () promoting regular and open communication between school personnel and students' family members;
- () communicating with families in a format and language that is understandable, to the extent practicable; ^{2,3}
- () providing information that will enable families to encourage and support their child(ren)'s academic progress, especially in the area of reading; ¹
- () providing information that will enable families to encourage and support their child(ren)'s citizenship, especially social skills and respect for others; ¹
- () providing information that will enable families to encourage and support their child(ren)'s realization of high expectations and setting life-long learning goals; ¹
- () providing information and involving families in monitoring student progress; ³
- () providing families with timely and meaningful information regarding Florida's academic standards, State and local assessments, and pertinent legal provisions; ^{2,3}
- () preparing families to be involved in meaningful discussions and meetings with school staff. ^{2,3}

C. **Volunteer Opportunities**

- () providing volunteer opportunities for families to support their children's school activities; ^{1,3}
- () ~~supporting other needs, such as transportation and child care, to enable families to participate in school sponsored family involvement events.~~³
providing a district-wide volunteer program to encourage families and schools to cooperate and join in volunteer efforts.

D. **Learning at Home**

- () offering training and resources to help families learn strategies and skills to support at-home learning and success in school; ^{1,2,3}
- () working with families to establish learning goals and help their children accomplish these goals; ¹
- () helping families to provide a school and home environment that encourages learning and extends learning at home. ^{1,2}

E. **Involving Families in Decision Making and Advocacy**

- () involving families as partners in the process of school review and continuous improvement planning; ³
- () involving families in the development of its District-wide parent involvement policy and plan, and distributing the policy and plan to families. ^{2,3}
- () involving families as participants in school decisions and advocacy through PTA/PTO, school councils, committees, action teams and/or other parent organizations.

F. **Collaborating with the Community**

- () building constructive partnerships and connecting families with community-based programs and other community resources; ^{2,3}
- () coordinating and integrating family involvement programs and activities with District initiatives and community-based programs that encourage and support families' participation in their children's education, growth, and development. ^{2,3}

Implementation

~~The Superintendent will provide for a comprehensive plan to engage parents, families, and community members in a partnership in support of each student's academic achievement, the District's continuous improvement, and individual school improvement plans. The plan will provide for annual evaluation, with the involvement of parents and families, of the plan's effectiveness and identification of barriers to participation by parents and families. Evaluation findings will be used in the annual review of the Parent and Family Involvement policy and to improve the effectiveness of the District plan.~~

The Board will engage parents, families and community members in a partnership in support of each student's academic achievement, the District's continuous improvement, and individual school improvement plans. The Board will annually evaluate, with the involvement of parents and families, the effectiveness of the district's parent involvement program and make adjustments as necessary.

Pursuant to State law, the Superintendent shall develop and annually disseminate a parent guide to successful student achievement, consistent with the guidelines of FLDOE, which address what parents need to know about their child's educational progress and how parents can help their child(ren) achieve in school.

¹Indicates Florida Statutory Requirements

²Indicates IDEA 2004 Section 650 & 644 parent involvement requirements

³Indicates Title I Section 1118 parent involvement requirements

~~[NOTE: Districts should select all options included in this template in order to have a policy that meets the requirements of State and Federal law and program requirements of Title I.]~~

F.S. 1000.03, 1002.23

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