

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

In acknowledgement of reliable research proving that parental involvement raises the academic achievement of students, the School encourages involvement of parents and foster caregivers (hereinafter collectively referred to as “parents”) through an active Parent Volunteer Program and an active Parent Teacher Organization.

In addition, the School will put into operation, programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in the School consistent with Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated in consultation with parents of participating children. To the extent practicable, the School will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information in alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

The School is governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement and will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

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

1. that parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;
2. that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;
3. 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; and
4. the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA.

PART II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The School will provide opportunities for parents to formulate suggestions, interact and share experiences with other parents and participate appropriately in decision-making about the School’s Title I plan and revisions in the parental involvement plan. In connection therewith, the School will hold an annual orientation meeting where parents will meet their child’s teacher and be reassured of their right and responsibility to be involved in their child’s education.
2. The School will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement if necessary:
 - a. Every year, a survey for all parents shall be conducted by the School to collect opinions and concerns of parents about the current program and to collect suggestions for improvement and topics for meetings that meet the needs of parents;
 - b. The School will distribute copies of the local report card to students upon enrollment in the School;
 - c. The School will distribute copies of the School’s Annual Report to parents by October 31st; and
 - d. The School will develop a school-parent compact designed by parents and school staff that outlines how parents, school staff and students share the responsibility for improving learning. The school-parent compact must:
 - Describe the School’s responsibility to provide a high quality curriculum and instruction in a supporting, effective, learning environment;
 - Describe the parent’s responsibility to support their child’s learning environment such as monitoring attendance, homework, extra-curricular activities and excessive television watching; and

- Address the importance of parent/teacher communication on an on-going basis through parent teacher conferences.

3. The School shall provide necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance through actions as the following:

- a. Offer a flexible number of meetings and activities throughout the year to assist parents in understanding the federal and state academic content and student achievement standards, as well as local academic assessments. Meetings will also focus on how parents and teachers can work together to monitor the student's progress in order to improve student achievement.
- b. Offer a varied schedule for meetings and conferences in order to accommodate the needs of parents.
- c. Offer a minimum of two scheduled parent conferences, where the progress of the student will be discussed as well as the expectations for the grade level, school curriculum, test information and any other concerns that the teacher or parent may have.
- d. Offer parent breakfasts and dinners to increase the parent-school relations.
- e. Develop agendas for parent meetings to include review and explanation of the curriculum, means of assessments, and the proficiency levels students are expected to achieve and maintain.

4. The School will coordinate and integrate parental involvement with parental involvement strategies under other programs such as: Head Start, Home Instruction Program and State-operated preschool programs.

5. The School will conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of the School.

The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The School will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise (if necessary and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

6. The School will build the School's and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the School, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following activities specifically described below:

- a. The School will provide assistance to parents of children served by the School, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 - the state's academic content standards
 - the state's student academic achievement standards
 - the state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
 - the requirements of Title I, Part A of the federal regulations
 - how to monitor their child's progress
 - how to work with educators
- b. The School will consider taking the following actions in order to improve student academic achievement as necessary:
 - The School will hold an annual orientation meeting where parents will meet their child's teacher and be reassured of their right and responsibility to be involved in their child's education.
 - The School will hold a minimum of two scheduled parent conferences, where the progress of the student will be discussed as well as the expectations for the grade level, school curriculum, test information and any other concerns that the teacher or parent may have.
 - Parent home visits may be scheduled and done by teachers and administrators.

- Parent breakfasts and dinners will help to increase the parent-school relations.
- Continuous communication to assist parents in understanding the school curriculum and student achievement through Interim and Quarter Report Cards, Student/ Parent Handbook (provided at the beginning of the year during the orientation), handouts and mailings, monthly newsletters and student achievement reports. Newsletters will include parenting tips and suggestions. All invitations will be sent in a timely manner with an additional follow-up reminder.

c. The School will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, and by sending monthly newsletters which include parenting tips and suggestions.

d. The School will, with the assistance of its parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools. The School will also support professional development opportunities for staff members to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies.

e. The School will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.