



Model Family-School Partnerships School Board Policy

ORGANIZATION, PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS

Family-School Partnerships Policy

I. PURPOSE

To establish policy that is inclusive of all families to promote effective and meaningful family-school partnerships as an essential component in supporting student success.

II. DEFINITION

Family engagement is defined as:

- Family engagement is a shared responsibility in which schools and community agencies and organizations are committed to reaching out to engage families in meaningful ways and families are committed to actively supporting their children's learning and development.
- Family engagement is continuous across a child's life and entails enduring commitment but changing roles as children mature into young adulthood.
- Effective family engagement cuts across and reinforces learning in the multiple settings where children learn—at home, in prekindergarten programs, in school, in after school programs and in the community.

III. RATIONALE

- A. Research indicates that family engagement in education has a positive effect on student learning and development. Family engagement practices are essential to student success and should be woven throughout the fabric of schools' instructional program and culture.
- B. To serve the needs of diverse family structures, the School Board supports a comprehensive, strength-based, capacity-building approach to inclusion and family engagement which encompasses National PTA's six National Standards for Family-School Partnerships:
 1. **Welcome all families:** Schools will create a welcoming, responsive, and inclusive environment, where all families feel welcome, values their diverse needs, abilities, cultural and linguistic backgrounds, and inspires families to become active participants in the school community.

2. **Communicate effectively:** School staff and families will engage in regular, two-way communication that is consistently maintained using multiple mechanisms and tools to support communication easily and directly with one another. Communications will be in a language and readability that families can understand about student learning and development.
3. **Support student success:** Schools and families shall develop partnerships and collaborate to support learning and healthy development of students through opportunities that are provided by the school to build on assets of families to support learning at home and in the classroom.
4. **Speak up for every child:** Schools, staff, parents, and families will advocate to ensure that each individual student has equitable access to opportunities for inclusion in learning and non-curricular opportunities and supports to achieve their success.
5. **Share power:** Partnerships between schools and families positively impact decisions when creating policies, practices, and programs. Schools shall foster a partnership with families in making decisions that affect their children. Schools will actively enlist parents' participation in the school improvement and innovation process from parents representing diverse student groups.
6. **Collaborate with community:** While respecting abilities, cultural and linguistic practices and traditions, families and schools will collaborate with the community to enhance opportunities for inclusion, learning, community service, and civic participation.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

The [SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME] will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its division wide parental involvement plan under section 1118 of the ESEA:

1. Conduct an annual meeting to involve parents in the joint development of the school plan
2. Parents of all children shall be invited and encouraged to attend Back-to-School Night, Parent-Teacher Conferences, and Open House
3. Form a Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) at the division wide level and at each participating school to involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of the School Parental Involvement Policy.
4. Build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement by inviting and encouraging parents to participate in PAC meetings, workshops and other school events.
5. Communication between teachers and parents shall be addressed on an ongoing basis through the following means: a) parent-teacher conferences; b) progress reports at the end of each grading period; c) reasonable access to staff; d) opportunities to observe and/or participate in their child's class/school

6. Conduct an annual family survey to solicit input from all families of participating children as a means of evaluating the content and the effectiveness of the parent involvement policy. The results of the survey will provide information on how teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff can better reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners to help educate children and make revisions, if necessary, to improve the policy.

Legal Reference: Every Student Succeeds Act, 20 U.S.C. Section 6301 (2015)

Reference: National PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships (2022)