

POLICY 86

Family Engagement Policy

The Board of Education encourages participation of students in all aspects of their child’s education. In order to facilitate family engagement, the District will:

1. Involved parents and family members in jointly developing the local school district plan pursuant as required by the Every Student Succeeds Act and the development of support and improvement plans in accordance with the law.
2. Provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all the District’s schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education.
3. Coordinate and integrate parents and family engagement strategies under this policy with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate under state and federal law.
4. Conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools served under this part, including identifying the following:
 - a. Barriers to greater participation by parents in 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.
 - b. The needs to parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers.
 - c. Strategies to support successful school and family interactions.
5. Use the findings of such evaluation listed in paragraph 4 to design evidence based strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policies.
6. Involve parents in the activities of the schools which may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members of students to represent the needs of the population served by such agency for the purposes of developing, revising and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy.
7. Distribute this policy to parents and families of students by placing the policy on the District’s website, including the policy in District’s handbooks, and sending the policy to parents and families annually.

The Board of Education hereby directs each building principal of a Title 1 school to ensure that a building level family engagement plan is generated with the participation of that building's parents and families. In addition to those goals stated above, each such building level plan will describe the details for the following possible strategies:

1. Shall providing assistance to parents of children served by the school in understanding such topics as the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.
2. Shall providing 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 and family involvement.
3. Shall 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 build ties between parents and the school.
4. Shall 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.
5. Shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and in a language the parent can understand.
6. May involve parents and families in the development of training for teachers, principals and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training.
7. May provide necessary literacy training from funds received under Title 1 if the local educational agency has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training.
8. May pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school related meetings and trainings.
9. May train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.
10. May arrange school meetings at a variety of times,, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation.
11. May adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement.
12. May establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs.
13. May develop appropriate roles for community based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities.
14. Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as the parent's request.

First Reading: September 5, 2018
Second Reading: September 19, 2018
BOE Adoption: