

INSTRUCTION

Parent, Family and Community Partnerships

Vision

Students master academic skills and develop civic responsibility, because of family, school and community support enhanced by school partnerships with parents, families and community organizations that enable parents to:

- A. Rely on community resources to support their parenting efforts;
- B. Understand their children's school experience;
- C. Participate as volunteers in school;
- D. Support student learning at home;
- E. Develop effective parenting skills;
- F. Participate in important decisions affecting their children.

Structure

A. Building Level Family and Community Partnership Plans

Each school and the families and community it serves is different. Therefore, each school must have its own approach to parent and community partnerships. Working together staff and parents at each school shall develop plan to ensure:

- 1. All parents understand their children's school experience;
- 2. School staff understands parents' and community expectations for the school;
- 3. School staff work with parent and community volunteers in the school in ways that are beneficial to students and that strengthen school and community relations;
- 4. Families receive information about how to support their children's learning at home;
- 5. Parents are referred to resources for assistance in developing their parenting skills, or to obtain advice on family financial, health or welfare issues;
- 6. Connections are maintained with community resources and agencies to assure current information and continuous cooperation. Representatives of parents and the community served by the school will participate as members of the school site councils and on the school's student learning improvement team;
- 7. All parents have the opportunity to review and advise on their student's learning experience; and
- 8. Collaborations and exchanges are established with businesses and agencies in the community to broaden the learning opportunities for students and expand options for teachers.

Policy No. 2180
Parent, Family and Community Partnerships – continued

Each school's Family and Community Partnership Plan shall include a timeline for implementations, success indicators, evaluation procedures, and a system for reporting to the community and the school district.

B. District Level Expectations, Support, and Resources

The success of each school's plan depends upon its appropriateness to the school's service area. The district shall provide the following support to schools:

1. Training and professional development to enable teachers and administrators to more effectively work with parents and families as partners in student's learning.
2. Within the constraints of the district budget, financial and staff resources to assist and support the implementation of individual school plans.
3. District personnel with experience and in developing effective parents, family and community partnerships to provide guidance, resources, and support.
4. Support for the development of parenting skills, including helping parents to develop the capacity to support students' learning at home.
5. Partnerships with other units of government and public and private social, health, welfare and fraternal agencies are developed to create a community support system to strengthen families' ability to guide the academic and character development of their children.

C. Accountability

Staff will provide annual reports and data to the Board focused on family and community engagement goals, efforts, and progress toward meeting performance targets.

D. Advocacy

Each year the Board will review progress toward meeting district goals and identify focus areas, strategies, and methods for district and/or Board action to strengthen family and community engagement.

Adopted: August 11, 2004
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