

COUNCIL POLICY

DISTRICT: Washington

SCHOOL: North Washington

TITLE

Parent and Family Engagement

Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA); Title I, Part A (Section 1118)
as amended for No Child Left Behind (2001)

POLICY STATEMENT:

Purpose:

Parents serve as a key shareholder in the educational processes of the students attending North Washington Elementary. The *Parent Involvement* policy ensures equitable participation in the planning, reviewing, and implementing of all parent programs and activities.

Definition of a Parent:

The legal definition of a “parent” is a parent, stepparent, or foster parent of a student or a person who has legal custody of a student pursuant to a court order and with whom the student resides.

For the purpose of this policy, we will use the term “parent” to encompass all diverse family situations.

Parent Involvement Definition:

Parent involvement is best defined as any time a parent commits to assisting his/her child in learning and achieving academically to a higher level with greater interest and motivation.

Parent involvement can be accomplished in a variety of ways, which include the following:

- reading together at home with your children,
- developing your expectations for your child and communicating these expectations to your child, as well as communicating your support in helping your child achieve these expectations,
- communicating positive values such as respect, hard work, and responsibility,
- providing your child with positive encouragement when he/she achieves certain goals,
- speaking with your child’s teacher on a regular basis and offering any assistance that the teacher may suggest,
- becoming involved in the school’s PTO/SBDM council and/or committees, and
- discussing your child’s assessment scores after receiving the scores and an explanation of them from the school.

Procedures:

North Washington Elementary, along with the district Federal Programs' Coordinator, shall convene an annual meeting at a time that is convenient for parents. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend. At this meeting, parents will be informed of the school's participation in a Title I Schoolwide Program, the purpose and requirements of Title I, and their right to be involved. Particular attention shall be given to reaching those parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background.

North Washington Elementary shall involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the Title I planning, review, and improvement of programs; this includes the joint development of the school parent involvement policy.

North Washington Elementary and the parents of the students participating in the activities, services, and programs agree that improved student achievement is a shared responsibility. North Washington Elementary and its parents will build and develop a partnership that will assist students in achieving proficiency.

Therefore, we commit to:

1. Sharing clear information about each student's progress with parents.
2. Offering practical suggestions to parents on how they can support student learning at home.
3. Making representative parents and community members full partners in our decision-making.
4. Facilitating the involvement of our parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory students.
5. Seeking and supporting adult volunteers to work with and inspire our students, as well as making every effort when legally appropriate to accommodate the involvement of adults other than parents who are already involved in a student's life.

We will honor these commitments through a school-parent compact. During an annual meeting with parents, we will review the compact with parents, ask for input and then revise, if necessary, the compact.

School-Parent Learning Compact:

Our students' parents, families, extended families, students themselves, as well as our local community are all considered partners who share responsibilities for high student academic achievement. Following are the responsibilities for the school, the parents and the students.

School Responsibilities:

North Washington will:

1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in an effective, supportive, and safe learning environment that enables the students

to meet Kentucky's academic standards.

2. Provide information on the content standards students will learn each year.
3. Assign homework in accordance to our Homework Policy
4. Provide parents the opportunity to participate in an annual meeting to become informed of school's participation with Title 1 and what it means for them.
5. Provide an opportunity for parents to participate in an annual meeting regarding the school performance and school's progress toward meeting learning goals.
6. Provide parents with frequent reports on their child's progress. Specifically, we will provide formal reports every 4 ½ weeks.
7. Maintain updated/current records of student performance/grades for parent access.
8. Hold Parent-Teacher conferences during the year where this compact will be discussed as it is related to the individual student's achievement. Opportunities (where appropriate) will be provided for the student to participate actively in sharing information on his or her progress with his or her parents during the conference.
9. Provide parents reasonable access to staff. The email addresses and telephone extensions of their child's teachers will be provided to parents to promote communication. Staff will always be available to parents by appointment for face-to-face conferences.
10. Monthly school-wide newsletters will be provided for parents, as well as weekly grade-level newsletters.
11. Support an active PTO.
12. Provide parents the opportunities including but not limited to:
 - Observing their child's classroom activities when appropriate and/or scheduled.
 - Tutoring
 - Assisting with classroom activities that require more than one adult.
 - Serving on one of our decision-making committees
 - Joining our PTO and participating in its efforts to strengthen our school.
 - Volunteering along with other concerned members of our community in other areas as needed.
 - Supports from our FRYSC to meet needs of transportation, home visits, or childcare to allow for parent-teacher meetings.
13. Ensure that all adult volunteers working in our school and with our students are subject to board policy and state law regarding criminal record checks, as applicable.
14. Ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to the parents in the language used in the home.

The Family Resource/Youth Service Center will share responsibility for student achievement by:

- Surveying families at least once/year to learn what services and activities would most help them support their children as learners.
- Offering a well-planned, well-publicized menu of activities and programs to meet those needs.

Parent Responsibilities:

Parents are asked to:

1. Monitor and encourage attendance and arrival to school on time.
2. Become familiar with and support the school and individual classrooms' homework policies and show interest with questions about and comments on the schoolwork their child brings home.
3. Make sure homework is completed.
4. Assist their child with time management.
5. Participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to their child's education.
6. Stay in close communication with teachers and the school about their child's education by promptly reading all notices and surveys from the school or the school district and responding as necessary.
7. To the extent possible, volunteer, serve on the school council or a committee, attend SBDM meetings, and comment on draft policies and plans as they are made available.

Student Responsibilities:

With support from parents, students are asked to:

1. Attend school as regularly as possible.
2. Follow school and classroom behavior expectations.
3. Bring necessary materials to school and to class.
4. Complete and turn in all assigned homework.
5. Give parents or the adult responsible for them, all notices and information received from the school.
6. Write down assignments and due dates before leaving class.

Date Adopted: 11/9/2004

Most Recent Review/Update: July 2020