



CENTRAL BERKSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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PARENT/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT POLICY

The Central Berkshire Regional School District welcomes the participation of parents/guardians in the support of student learning and recognizes that parental/guardian involvement increases the opportunities for student success. It is the policy of The Central Berkshire Regional School District to foster and maintain ongoing communications with parents/guardians concerning their opportunities for involvement, their children's eligibility for special programs, their children's educational progress, the professional qualifications of their children's teachers and the status of their children's school. The Central Berkshire Regional School District shall also provide full opportunities for the participation of parents/guardians with limited English proficiency and other disabilities, including providing information and school reports in a language such parents/guardians will understand. Communications with parents/guardians shall, at all times, respect the privacy of the students and their families.

Under the No Child Left Behind policy, The Central Berkshire Regional School District shall involve parents/guardians in the joint development of policies and keep them informed of school reviews and improvements being made.

It is the intent of The Central Berkshire Regional School District that parents/guardians of participating children understand the process by which schools are identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring, and that parents/guardians of children attending such schools are provided promptly with the following information:

- a) An explanation of what the identification means and how the school compares in terms of academic achievement to other schools served by the local educational agency.
- b) An explanation of how the parent/guardian can become involved in addressing academic issues that caused the school to be identified for improvement.
- c) An explanation of the parents/guardian options to transfer his/her child to another public school, including the provision of transportation to the new school and information on the academic achievement of the school which the child may transfer to.

Under the No Child Left Behind policy, schools shall provide coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent/guardian involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance and to build the schools and parent capacity for strong parental/guardian involvement.

The Central Berkshire Regional School District shall provide assistance to parents/guardians of children served by the school or local educational agencies and to provide materials and training to help parents/guardians work with their children in order to improve their children's achievement.

The following basic principles will be administered by teams of parents/guardians, teachers and administration in each school and are considered essential to strong parent/guardian involvement.

- a) Each school shall provide information to parents/guardians on such topics as the state's academic content and achievement standards, assessments being used and how to monitor their children's progress and work with educators to improve their achievement.
- b) Each school, to the extent feasible and appropriate, shall coordinate parent/guardian involvement programs with Head Start and conduct other activities such as a parent/guardian resource center that will fully encourage and support parents/guardians.
- c) Each school shall ensure that information related to school and parent/guardian programs, meetings and other activities is sent home in a language the parent/guardian can understand.
- d) Each school shall provide other reasonable support for the parent/guardian involvement activities as parents/guardians may request.
- e) Each school may provide necessary literacy training for parents/guardians with funds from grants or other sources available.
- f) Each school may pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental/guardian involvement activities, including child care costs, to enable parents/guardians to participate in school related meetings and training sessions.
- g) Each school shall make sure that every aspect of the school climate is open, friendly and helpful.
- h) Each school shall make sure that communication with parents/guardians is frequent, clear and two-way.
- i) Each school shall make sure that parents/guardians are treated as collaborators in the educational process, with a strong complimentary role in their children's school learning and behavior.
- j) Each school shall make sure that parents/guardians are encouraged to comment on school policies and to share in the decision-making process.
- k) Each school shall encourage volunteer participation from parents/guardians and the community.

As a component of the school-level parental/guardian involvement policy, each school served under this part jointly develops a school-parent/guardian compact that outlines how parents/guardians, school staff and students share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents/guardians will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve high standards. These compacts-

1. Describe the school's responsibility to provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children to meet student academic standards, and the ways that parents/guardians will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion and television watching and participating in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time.
2. Address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through-
 - a) Parent/guardian teacher's conferences
 - b) Reports, as necessary, to parents/guardians on their children's progress
 - c) Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their children's classes and observation of school activities.

All in all, the plan will use strategies to promote effective parent/guardian involvement in our children's schools.