Policy Council, Parent Committees
And VPI Steering Committee

Policy Council

In our Head Start program, parents are encouraged to represent their site/center by serving as a member of the Policy Council. This is the forum where parents' have a voice in making major decisions for the program. The Policy Council comprises 51% parents and 49% community representatives, so parents always have the deciding vote. Policy Council members review, share input, and vote on personnel reports, including serving on committees to interview new staff, financial reports, and program policies. Their peers elect policy council representatives at the parent committee level.

Parents are encouraged to serve as members on the following advisory committees:

- Program Design and Management
- Health Advisory Committee
- Family and Community Engagement
- Education and Disabilities

Each committee focuses on specific issues affecting the program and advises program staff on developing and implementing program procedures, activities, and events.

Parent Committees

Membership consists of all parents and guardians of currently enrolled preschool children. Meeting dates, times, and locations are determined by the parents. Members have an opportunity to offer suggestions, provide feedback to program staff regarding procedures, activities, and services that meet the needs of the children and families. Parent Committee members select at least one parent to represent their school/center to serve on the Head Start Program Policy Council and VPI Steering Committee. The Policy Council representatives will be responsible for attending monthly policy council meetings and sharing information between both groups.

VPI Steering Committee

The VPI Steering Committee representatives will attend a joint quarterly meeting with the representatives of Head Start and other community members.

The Family Engagement team is looking forward to working with you to get all of our families involved. Please feel free to contact us any time at preschool@rvaschools.net.