

### **Parent Involvement Policy**

The North Merrick Board of Education recognizes that the responsibility for the education of children is shared by the school community and families throughout the children's enrollment in the North Merrick Schools. To support the District's vision to nurture, guide, and challenge children to maximize their potential and become contributors to society, the school community and parents must work as well-informed partners.

Although parents are diverse in culture, language, and needs, they share the school community's commitment to the academic success of their children. This School District and the three schools within its boundaries, in collaboration with parents, shall establish practices that enhance parent involvement, and reflect the specific needs of students and their families.

To this end, the Board of Education supports the involvement of parents at all grade levels in a variety of roles. Involvement will include, but not be limited to the following:

- **Parenting:** Helping all families establish home environments to support children as students. Providing—
  - parent education and/or training for parents by social workers, psychologists, and/or referral to appropriate agencies (i.e. Community Parent Center, Community Wellness Council of the Bellmores and Merricks, etc.).
  - access to family support programs to assist families with health, nutrition, and other services.
  
- **Communicating:** Effective forms of school-to-home and home-to-school communications about school programs and children's progress by—
  - monthly Board of Education meetings;
  - timely announcements on the District's web site;
  - conferences with every parent at least twice a year;
  - report cards, notices, letters, memos, newsletters, phone calls, and other communications;
  - interpreters to assist families who do not understand English, whenever necessary and possible.
  
- **Volunteering:** Recruiting and organizing parent help and support—
  - chaperones to help teachers on school trips;
  - volunteers to coordinate the PARP program
  - providing room availability for volunteer work and meetings.

- **Learning at Home:** Providing information and ideas to families about helping students with homework and other curriculum-related activities, decisions, and planning—
  - information for families on skills required for students across the curriculum;
  - information on homework policies, and monitoring and discussing school-work at home; and
  - information links for parents on the District’s web site.
  
- **Decision Making:** Including parents in school decisions, developing parent leaders and representatives—
  - Parent representation on the Professional Development Plan and Project SAVE Committees
  - Representation on the site based teams of all schools
  - Active PTA, SEPTA, or other parent organizations, advisory councils, or committees for parent leadership and participation—
    - ✓ monthly meetings with the PTA Council; and
    - ✓ monthly meetings with the PTAs and SEPTA.
  - Networks to link all families with parent representatives.
  
- **Collaborating with the Community:** Identifying and integrating resources and services from the community to strengthen school programs, family practices, student learning and development, and providing—
  - invitations to parents and/or community members to join the *lay budget advisory committee*
  - information for students and families on community health, cultural, recreational, social support, and other programs or services;
  - information on community activities that link to learning skills and talents, including summer programs for students;
  - service to the community by students, families, and schools (e.g. art, drama, music, and activities for seniors or other adults).

The Board of Education supports professional development opportunities for staff members to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies. The Board also recognizes the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation, and will share the content of this policy with all parents in a variety of ways, including PTA District Council and PTA meetings, Board meeting, as well as the District web site and calendar.