

**PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**  
(Legally Required for Title 1 Schools and Best Practice for Others)  
**Policy #14**



**DEFINITION OF PARENT**

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

**COMMITMENTS**

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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 migrant children.
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. Annually we will review the compact with parents, ask for input and then revise, if necessary.

**SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT**

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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**

William Wells Brown Elementary will:

1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in an effective, supportive, and safe learning environment that enables the students to meet Kentucky Core Academic Standards.

2. Provide information on the content students will learn each year through the methods listed in our Curriculum Policy.
3. Assign homework in accordance with our Homework Policy.
4. Provide parents with frequent reports on their child's progress. Specifically we will provide formal reports every grading period.
5. Hold parent-teacher conferences during which this compact will be discussed as it relates 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 these conferences.
6. Provide parents reasonable access to staff. Parents will be encouraged to communicate with staff through email, phone, and face-to-face.
7. Send home newsletters at least four times a year that include information on ways families can help students learn.
8. Support an active Parent Teacher Community Association (PTCA).
9. Provide parents opportunities including but not limited to:
  - Observing their child's classroom activities.
  - Tutoring.
  - Assisting with classroom activities that require more than one adult.
  - Preparing materials, mailings, refreshments, and other items needed for family and community involvement.
  - Serving on one of our decision-making committees.
  - Joining our parent teacher organization and participating in its efforts to strengthen our school.
  - Volunteering along with other concerned members of our community in other areas as needed.
10. 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.

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

- Surveying families at least once a 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 attendance.
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 children bring 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 if necessary.
7. To the extent possible, volunteer, serve on the school council or a committee, attend School-Based Decision Making Council 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 the school and classroom behavior standards.
3. Bring necessary learning materials to school and to class.
4. Complete and turn in all assigned homework.
5. Give parents or the adult who is responsible for them, all notices and information received from the school.

## **POLICY EVALUATION**

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We will evaluate the effectiveness of this policy through our School Improvement Planning Process.

Date Adopted:   9/26/17  

Date Reviewed or Revised:   9/6/17   Council Chairperson's Initials   J.J.J.  

Date Reviewed or Revised:   9/26/17   Council Chairperson's Initials   J.J.J.

## NOTES ON USING THIS POLICY

**SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES:** For elementary Title I schools in number 5 of the School Responsibilities section, these meetings must be held at least annually.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:** These must be age-appropriate and be adjusted to fit your situation.