



Farnham School Title I Parent Involvement Policy 2012-2013

Statement of Purpose

Farnham School upholds the premise that if families are to work with our school as partners in the education of their children, we must provide them the opportunities and support they need to become involved. Developing effective partnerships with families requires that all school staff (administrators, teachers and support staff) create a safe and sound educational school environment that welcomes parents and encourages them to ask questions and voice their concerns as well as to participate in decision making. Developing partnerships also requires that school staff provide parents with the information and training they need to become involved and that the school reaches out to parents with invitations to participate in their children's learning through a variety of activities.

Parental Involvement in Developing the Policy

Farnham School has an active School Site Council that meets on the first once every month. The Council is made up of parents, faculty, staff and administration. All participants are active in planning and implementing our school goals.

Annual Meeting for Parents

Parents involvement meetings, to which all parents/guardians are invited, are held throughout the school year;

- School Site Council meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm;
- English Language Learner Advisory Committee meetings are held three times during the year in which parents of English Learner students are invited and encouraged to attend;
- Home & School Club meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm

Home-School Compact

In accordance with Title I regulations, Farnham School utilizes a "Home-School" compact which outlines how students, parents, and staff will share responsibility for promoting high student growth and achievement. Parents receive the compact from their child's teacher with a checklist of responsibilities that students, parents, and staff will share. This compact discussed and given out at the Fall parent teacher conference by the teacher and parents are encouraged to sign the compact and return it to school. (See attachment)

Types of Parental Involvement

Parent involvement activities at Farnham Charter School will provide opportunities for participation in the following ways:

- Parent teacher conferences (Fall and Spring; or by request from teacher or parent)
- School Site Council
- Home & School Club
- English Learner Advisory Committee meetings (3 times per year)
- Back to School Night
- Open House/Science Fair
- Home & School Club sponsored events (World Walk; Pumpkin Walk; Scholastic Book Fair; Kindergarten Ice Cream Social; Family Night Out)
- Project Cornerstone
- Asset Building Champions Program
- Positive Behavior Support & Intervention Program – Act Responsibly, Be Respectful, Care for others
- Lifeskills Program
- Principal 10 Hour Volunteer Challenge

- Volunteering in various capacities (classrooms; fieldtrips; tutoring; etc.)

All of the above activities and events provide positive interaction opportunities, within the school setting for our families.

Matching Programs to the Needs of Our Community

To provide appropriate and meaningful parent involvement programs and activities for our families, Farnham School annually assesses the needs of students, parents and school personnel using multiple measures which include needs assessments, questionnaires and surveys.

Staff/Parent Communication

Notifications of events are disseminated via multiple means including but not limited to the weekly Communicator, monthly school newsletters, school and district website, classroom newsletters, and numerous event flyers and leaflets. Primary language translation is provided for school generated information. Translators are available upon request for conferences and meetings as needed.

Survey and Evaluation

An annual student and parent survey includes an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parental Involvement Policy. Results of the survey help Farnham School better meet the needs of our families. Parent involvement at Farnham School is a policy of vision, as well as change, as educational needs are identified and addressed. We invite and encourage input from both parents and staff each year.

Parent Involvement Policy Approval

The Farnham School Parent Involvement Policy is reviewed, revised and approved by the Farnham School Site Council. The policy is disseminated to all parents via the Farnham School website and within the monthly Flash newsletter.

Annual Goals

Farnham School recognizes that parents/guardians are the most influential figures in their child's life and that parental involvement is essential to their child's achievement and character.

Parents/guardians and teachers must work together as partners with the aim of providing the best possible education for the children. To facilitate that, Farnham School shall include meaningful parent/guardian involvement strategies as a component of instructional planning.

Farnham School shall annually review the following components of parent involvement:

- We will identify barriers and specific strategies for greater participation of parents through our School Site Council (SSC) and Home & School Club (HSC). These meetings are held on a monthly basis, and they are announced in our school newsletters and the agenda is posted in the school office.
- We shall conduct an annual evaluation of the effectiveness of various programs through our School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA). The plan is evaluated annually by our school staff and brought to the SSC for review and adoption. Parents/guardians will have an opportunity for input during these SSC meetings.
- We will coordinate parental involvement between our various programs through announcements in our school newsletters, classroom newsletters, HSC meetings, specific flyers, and classroom volunteers. If any parent/guardian is interested in becoming involved, s/he is also encouraged to contact his/her child's teacher or principal.
- We will communicate with parents/guardians about their child's progress on a continuous basis. There are two formal parent-teacher conference times per year, one in the fall and one in the

spring. Other communication methods include weekly work folders, Back to School Night, Open House Night, results from standardized tests, and informal discussions with the teacher or principal. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher if additional information is needed.

- Review, revise and encourage parents/guardians to utilize the School – Parent Partnership agreement to build and enhance home-school relationship. (See attachment)
- We will involve parents in the revision of this policy through the SSC meetings. Parents'/Guardians' input and comments will help shape the effectiveness of this document.

Legal References:

CA Ed. Code Sections 11500-11506 Programs to Encourage Parental Involvement
Title 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Section 1118
Improving American's Schools Act of 1994
Depart of Education 34 Code of Federal Regulations Part 200

Adopted by SSC: TBD