

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

(Legally Required for Title I Schools and Best Practice for Non-Title I Schools)



DEFINITION OF PARENT

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

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. Providing activities designed to successfully engage families in their children’s learning, as appropriate.
4. Making representative parents and community members full partners in our decision-making.
5. Facilitating the involvement of our military families, parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.
6. 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. During an annual meeting with parents, we will review the compact with parents, ask for input and then revise, if necessary, the compact.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

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:

Title I Parent/Teacher/Student Compact

As a School, we will...

- Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in an effective, supportive and safe learning environment that enables the students to meet Kentucky's academic standards
- Make available on a regular basis information on our programs and the content students will learn each year.
- Assign homework in accordance with our homework policy.
- Send home information on student progress on a regular basis. Specifically, we will provide formal reports every 9 weeks.
- 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.
- Provide parents reasonable access to staff. The email addresses and telephone extensions of their child's teachers will be provided to parents to promote communication. Staff will always be available to parents by appointment for face-to-face conferences.
- Send home newsletters at least four times a year that include information on ways families can help students learn. The first newsletter will contain a copy of this policy.
- Support an active Parent Teacher Association or Organization.
- Provide a variety of opportunities for parent and family involvement in school activities, 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
- 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.
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As a Teacher, I promise to...

- Care for the well-being and safety of all of my students
- Have high expectations for all of my students
- Demonstrate professional behavior
- Come to class prepared to teach
- Communicate with parents and guardians and inform them of their child's progress
- Enforce school and classroom rules consistently and fairly
- Instill the "Bobcat Way"

As a Student, I promise to...

- Be Responsible, Be Engaged, Be Safe and Take Responsibility
- Come to school prepared and on time
- Have high expectations
- Ask for help if I need it
- Follow the "Bobcat Way"
- Try my best
- Complete all of my assignments

As a Parent/Guardian, I promise to

- Make sure my child gets a good night's sleep
- Listen to my child read each evening
- Practice spelling words with my child
- Attend activities at the school with my child
- Let the school know if my child is worried about something at school
- Give my child time and space to complete homework
- Make sure my child gets to school prepared and on time
- Keep in contact with my child's teacher to to monitor academic progress

Signature and date		Date
Student Signature		
Parent Signature		
Teacher Signature		

POLICY EVALUATION

We will evaluate this policy through our annual policy review process.

Date(s) Adopted, Reviewed, or Revised:

Revised: **September 2023**

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

- This policy is required by law.
- ***Bold italics*** (above) show language directly from the law.
- Your policy can meet the requirements in ways that differ from KASC's samples, but your policy language can't contradict the law.

LAW IN A BOX: This sample policy is consistent with the requirements in the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) law, which requires that all Title I schools have a school-parent compact.

USE BY NON-TITLE I SCHOOLS: This is considered a best practice policy for schools that are not Title I schools. Although the compact and annual meeting would be optional for these schools, it is still a good idea to include these or at least to include responsibilities for the school, parents, and students, as modeled in this sample.