

InstructionParental/Community Involvement in Schools

Cass County School District #13-0001, Plattsmouth Community Schools, after having conducted a public hearing concerning parental involvement and participation in the school district herewith declares that it shall be the policy of the District to provide access to parents to all textbooks, tests, curriculum materials, and any other instructional materials used by the school.

It shall further be the policy of the District in the event any parent has a complaint or objection to any such materials to make such provision for personal conferences with the parent and appropriate school personnel to discuss such concerns as the superintendent or his/her designee may deem appropriate. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall prepare a complaint form which may be used by a parent to express objections to any such instructional material. Such complaint forms shall seek information including, but not limited to, the specific instructional material complained of, the reason for the complaint, and a proposed resolution of the complaint by the parent.

It shall further be the policy of the District to upon reasonable advance request by a parent to attend and monitor courses, assemblies, counseling sessions, and other instructional activities, to permit such parent to be in attendance at such activities unless such attendance would substantially interfere with a legitimate school interest.

It shall further be the policy of the district to encourage communications from the parents concerning when a parent believes it to be appropriate for his/her student to be excused from testing, classroom instruction, and other school experiences that the parent may find objectionable. The superintendent or his/her designee shall make a provision on the complaint form hereinabove referred to for receiving information from a parent concerning what specific testing, classroom instruction, or other school experience the parent finds objectionable, the basis for the parent's objection and a proposed solution for dealing with the objection that would be satisfactory to the parent.

It shall further be the policy of the District to provide full access to the records of the students to a parent or guardian all as set forth in Section 79-2,104, the Federal Education Right To Privacy Act, and other applicable law during regular business hours of the school at the school headquarters or wherever the student's records may regularly be maintained by the District.

It is the further policy of the District to notify a parent or parents of any student who may be subjected to a standard norm referenced or criterion referenced test or standard tests such as but not limited to the Northwest Evaluation Association Measures of Academic Progress, to notify the parent when reasonable to do so, where a sample of such test might be observed and the date upon which such test will be administered. As to all testing by the District, experimental evaluation methodologies, experimental testing instruments and any testing instrument which would tend to inquire into the values, beliefs, or privacy rights of any student, or parent or guardian of such student shall be prohibited unless a parent requests in writing that such tests be administered to his/her resident student.

Prior to any school sponsored survey being administered to the students of the District, it shall be the duty of the superintendent or his/her designee to notify the parent or parents of each student involved in the survey of the nature of the survey, the date and time when such survey shall be administered, and the purpose for which and the uses of which survey exist from the school's perspective.

Parents are also encouraged to be active participants in our Response to Intervention program for students. For Level 1 of the RtI process, students may participate in the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment and the AIMSWeb assessment, during August/September, December/January, and April/May of each school year. Parents are encouraged to contact the building administrator with any questions about these assessments.

At Level 2, parents are sent a letter (see Appendix A in the RtI Program Handbook) that describes how their child qualified for intervention by earning a median reading score below the 10th percentile on the AIMSWeb assessment. The parents are also invited to participate in the development of a Level 2 Plan for their child and informed that a staff member will be contacting them to schedule a Level 2 meeting. Parents continue to be active participants on the RtI team, throughout Level 2.

For Level 3, parents are active participants in their child's RtI team meetings and they assist with development of a Level 3 plan. Parents may also be asked to sign a Permission for Specialist's Participation form, if the team deems it desirable to bring in more intensive support from an education specialist that would work one on one or in a small group with their child. Parents continue to be active participants on the RtI team, throughout Level 3.

It shall be the policy of the District as a general matter to leave substantive decision making processes to the professional staff, administration and Board of Education, subject to an effort to receive information from parents as to any concerns, objections, or other information such parents would wish to provide to the school district concerning a parent's access, involvement, and participation in all activities of the school as it relates to the student of the District.

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