

Procedure - Family Involvement

Definitions:

The term "family" is used to denote parents, extended family, guardians, or other persons with whom the student lives. "Parent" or "family" may also include community members or other concerned adults involved in the student's life, pursuant to state and federal laws surrounding confidentiality.

"Family Involvement" refers to school/family partnerships. It is the collaborative interaction between educators and families in activities that promote student learning and positive child and youth development at home, in school, and in the community. These activities include regular, two-way and meaningful communication between parents and school personnel; outreach to families; parent education; volunteering; school decision making; and advocacy.

Implementation:

The superintendent will identify a district administrator to supervise the implementation of this policy and procedure, and each school in the district will develop a family involvement plan aligned with their academic goals and/or school improvement plan and, if applicable, Title I services. Each plan will be tailored to the realities of school families, be culturally relevant to the school population and delineate strategies to increase family participation in education, particularly among families who are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background.

The district's family involvement efforts will have six overarching goals. They will include, but not be limited to, the following research-based National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement in schools:

- A. Communicating: Effective two-way communication between all parents and schools regarding district policies and procedures, local school operating procedures, and an individual child's progress;
- B. Parenting: Information and programs for parents on how to establish a home environment to support learning and appropriate behavior;
- C. Student Learning: Information and programs for parents about how they can assist their own children to learn and meet the student's short-term and long-term educational goals;
- D. Volunteering: Activities to encourage a variety of parental volunteer opportunities in schools both in the classroom and in other areas of the school including attendance at local school programs and events;
- E. School Decision-Making and Advocacy: Assistance to develop parental involvement in educational advocacy, including school district task forces and site based advisory committees. Whenever there is a court-ordered education plan that equally divides the responsibility and authority between both parents, then no meeting will be held, including an information-gathering meeting or developing-a-plan meeting, without both parents being apprised of the request and the opportunity to be present and to participate at said meeting; and
- F. Collaborating with Community: Identification and utilization of community resources to strengthen school and family partnerships and student learning.

In order to achieve these goals, the board, district and school staff will comply with the roles and responsibilities that are outlined below.

The district administrators and staff will:

- Conduct Title I parent meetings.
- Provide a system where teachers, students, and families can resolve problems that arise in ways that promote the best relationships possible, allowing them to solve problems first before resorting to the inclusion of principals and other administrators.
- Provide assistance for families to understand topics such as the state academic content standards, and state and local academic assessments, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children. *(For example, by publishing information in multiple languages and regularly communicating with families regarding academic requirements);*

School staff will:

- Help families feel welcome by demonstrating excellent customer service and basic courtesy.
- Treat all families and community members with respect; be sensitive to cultural differences and life circumstances among families.
- Be as flexible as possible when scheduling appointments and school events with families.
- Communicate early and positively with families and continue these positive contacts throughout the year, including home visits during the year, if feasible.
- Consider an annual student led conference and/or an annual parents meeting.
- Invite parents and family members to observe and assist in classrooms.
- Offer families opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children.
- Share class/school discipline and homework policies with families and follow through in a timely manner if problems arise.

Evaluation

The content and effectiveness of this policy and procedure, and the individual school plans will be evaluated by the building principal annually with regard to the quality and effectiveness of the strategies presented in the plan.

Adoption Date: 08.28.2019
 Okanogan School District
 Classification: Discretionary
 Revised Dates: