

SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Salem, Connecticut

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Considerable experience and related evidence indicates that meaningful involvement of parents, guardians, and other care-givers in the schooling of children significantly improves the quality of education. The Board of Education believes that closer connections with parents, guardians or caregivers and the school can result in enhanced academic performance, improved behavior and reduced absenteeism.

The Board of Education, therefore, encourages all parents, guardians and caregivers of students enrolled in our school district to take an active role in the education of their children.

Further, the Board of Education believes that the professional staff must take whatever steps are necessary to facilitate a broad variety of opportunities for parents to connect frequently with Salem School. These steps should include the following:

- Parenting skills will be promoted and supported.
- Communication between home and school shall be regular, two-way and meaningful. Examples include, but are not limited to, telephone, in-person informal conferences, email, and other communication platforms approved by the District.
- Annually, there will be a minimum of two flexible parent-teacher conferences for each school year.
- Parents should play an integral role in assisting student learning.
- Parents are welcome in school and their support and assistance is sought.
- Parent input will be sought regarding decisions that affect children and families.
- Salem Board of Education encourages community resources to be made available to strengthen school programs, family practices and student learning.
- Parents, guardians, and care-givers will have opportunities to have a voice in the planning and decision-making at both the school and district level.

The Board of Education supports professional development opportunities for staff members to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies. The Board also recognizes the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation.

In addition to programs at the school level, the Board of Education supports the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of a program to involve parents in the decisions and practices of the school district, using to the degree possible the components listed above.

Engaging parents is essential to improved student achievement. This school district shall foster and support active parent involvement.

The Superintendent will report annually to the Board of Education on family involvement activities.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes: 10-221 Boards of Education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures (as amended by PA 97-290 and by PA 10-111, An Act Concerning Education Reform in Connecticut.

Policy Adopted: April 28, 1998

Policy Revised: May 7, 2002

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