

9.15 PARENT INVOLVEMENT: FAMILY AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The Orange Beach School System and each school principal are encouraged to strengthen family involvement and family empowerment in the school. The Orange Beach School System will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with school improvement, Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, Title VI, community involvement programs, business partnerships, and other community involvement activities. Parents will be afforded substantial and meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.

The Orange Beach School System will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist schools in planning and implementing effective and comprehensive parent involvement programs which include the following:

- Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful.
- Communication between home and school includes conferences, telephone conversations, parent involvement meetings, written resource materials, community and system-wide surveys and needs assessments. Educators shall maintain accurate records of home-school communications.
- Responsible parenting is promoted and supported.
- Family literacy and parenting skills are emphasized.
- Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning.
- Parents help their children meet challenging state and local content and achievement standards.
- Parents are welcome in school and their support and assistance are sought.
- Opportunities to volunteer are frequently communicated.
- Parent participation on advisory committees strengthens program review, planning and improvement.
- Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families.
- Community resources are utilized to strengthen school programs, family practices and student learning.

The Orange Beach School System will communicate parental choices and responsibilities to parents.

The Orange Beach School System will provide professional development opportunities for staff members to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies through the professional development plan.

The Orange Beach School System will conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this policy:

- To determine the effectiveness of increasing parent participation;
- To identify barriers to greater parent participation; and,
- To report the findings to the State Department of Education.

The Orange Beach School System will use the findings of the evaluations in designing strategies for school improvement and revising, if necessary, the parent involvement policies.

References: Code of Alabama 16-11-9, 16-12-3, Alabama Administrative Code §290-3-1-.02(2)(A), No Child Left Behind Act of 2001