



Overview of Policy 505.08: FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

The full policy is available to view on the district webpage under Board at www.wdmcs.org. This written policy is distributed to families of participating Title I children electronically at the beginning of the school year or when rostered with a Title I teacher. In school-wide buildings, this will include all parents or guardians and families.

From Policy 505.08: FAMILY ENGAGEMENT: “Parents/guardians and families of Title I students in West Des Moines Community Schools (WDMCS) have the opportunity to be involved jointly in the development and review of the WDMCS Title I program. Recognizing that parental or guardian involvement and family engagement is the key to academic achievement, WDMCS seeks to involve parents/ guardians and families in an effective and authentic home-school partnership that will provide the best possible education for our students.

WDMCS encourages parental/guardian involvement and supports this collaborative partnership through providing information about standards and assessments; providing training and materials for parents/guardians to help their children; educating school personnel about involving parents and the value of parents/ guardians' contributions; and developing roles for community organizations and businesses to work with parents and schools.

- An annual meeting will be held to inform parents/guardians and family members of the school's participation in the Title I program and to explain the requirements of the program and their right to be involved.
- A school/parent compact outlines how parents/guardians and family members, the entire school staff, and students all share responsibility for improved student achievement.
- WDMCS will provide technical assistance and support to schools in planning and implementing effective parent/guardian and family engagement activities. The district will partner with community groups as a means to engage families more creatively and successfully.
- Parent-teacher conferences are held twice a year at different times during the day/evening at each individual school. During conferences, parents/guardians and families are given an opportunity to discuss their child's instructional plan and progress. Parents/guardians and families are given help in monitoring their child's progress and provide assistance on how to participate in decisions related to their child's education.
- WDMCS will conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and seek input from all partners and revise, if necessary.

Providing all WDMCS students with equal access to quality education is the primary purpose. It is crucial that all partners (students, parents/guardians and families, educators, and communities) have the opportunity to provide input and offer resources to meet this purpose. As these partnerships are mutually beneficial, developing cooperative efforts will ensure improved academic and emotional achievement, and social well-being for all students.