EASTCONN
Where Learning Comes to Life

INSTRUCTION

Series 6000
Policy #6009.1.1

Community Relations

Communication with the Public

Parent Involvement

Considerable experience and related evidence indicates that meaningful involvement of parents, guardians, and other care-givers in the schooling of children improves the quality of education significantly. EASTCONN believes that closer connections of parents and others responsible for the home care of the children with our schools can result in enhanced academic performance, improved behavior, and reduced absenteeism.

Therefore, all parents, guardians, and care-givers of students enrolled in EASTCONN schools are encouraged to take an active role in the education of their children.

Further, EASTCONN believes that the professional staff must take whatever steps are necessary to facilitate a broad variety of opportunities for parents to connect frequently with the schools in which their children are enrolled, and with the overall system. These steps should include the following:

- Parenting skills should be promoted and supported.
- Communication between home and school should be regular, two-way and meaningful. (Such communication may include monthly newsletters, electronic communications, required regular contact with all parents, two required flexible parent-teacher conferences for each school year and drop in hours for parents, home visits and use of technology, including but not limited to, homework hotlines.
- Parents should play an integral role in assisting student learning.
- Parents should be welcome in every EASTCONN school and their support and assistance sought.
- Parent input should be sought regarding decisions that affect children and families.
- Community resources should be made available to strengthen school programs, family practices and student learning.
- The two required parent-teacher conferences per year, beginning July 1, 2021 and each school year thereafter, can be fulfilled by EASTCONN offering parents the option of attending any parent-teacher conference by the use of telephonic, video, or other conferencing platforms.

- An additional parent-teacher conference, in addition to the two required conferences shall be conducted during periods when EASTCONN provides remote learning for more than three consecutive weeks and one additional parent-teacher conference every six months thereafter for the duration of such period of remote learning.

EASTCONN will request from the parent/guardian of each student the name and contact information of an emergency contact person who may be contacted if the student's parent/guardian cannot be reached to schedule a parent-teacher conference required when EASTCONN is providing remote learning for a period of three consecutive weeks or more.

In situations in which the teacher is unable to contact a student's parent/guardian after three attempts to schedule the required parent-teacher conference during a period of remote learning provided by EASTCONN for three consecutive weeks or more, such teacher is directed to report such inability to the principal, school counselor, or other school administrator designated by EASTCONN. Such principal, counselor, or administrator is to contact the student's emergency contact to determine the student and family's health and safety.

EASTCONN shall utilize the document developed by the State Department of Education (by 12/1/21) that provides information concerning educational, safety, mental health and food insecurity resources and programs available to students and their families.

The Executive Director will report annually to the EASTCONN Board of Directors on parent involvement activities.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221(f) Boards of Education to prescribe rule(s), policies, and procedures as amended by PA

97-290, P.A. 10-111, and P.A. 21-46, An Act Concerning Social Equity and the Health, Safety, and Education of Children.

Parent Involvement and Responsibilities

EASTCONN recognizes parents are important participants in the education of children. Parent involvement in a child's education is a major factor in improving school effectiveness, the quality of education, and a child's academic success. Therefore, EASTCONN will promote an environment in which parents are valued as primary influences in their children's lives and are essential partners in the education of their children.

EASTCONN will involve parents in the development of a Title I plan and the process of school review and improvement. This will be accomplished by holding school meetings at varying times during the day and varying locations. These plans will be shared with parents through written communications and meetings, which allow input from parents. EASTCONN's administrators will work to plan effective parent involvement activities. At Agency-wide Meetings, Principals will share information about their school's activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. EASTCONN schools will coordinate their efforts with EASTCONN's Head Start, Pre-School and Daycare Programs through regular meetings of the School Readiness Council.

All parents/families and educators should make family involvement in education a priority.

Thus, EASTCONN commits to providing support, coordination and training for school staff and parents to implement and sustain appropriate parent involvement. EASTCONN shall also provide information and training to staff on the contribution parents can make to the educational process.

Teachers, parents and administrators need to work together to ensure the success of all students. Communication is a key component in this collaboration. Thus, EASTCONN commits to the establishment of effective two-way communication between all parents/families and schools, respecting the diversity and differing needs of families. EASTCONN established a Home-School-Community Partnership Program to provide coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to facilitate parental involvement activities and communication.

Conditions in the home significantly influence a child's achievement in school. Parents and family members, as their primary teachers, play a vital role in the intellectual, social and emotional growth of their children. Thus, EASTCONN is committed to support parent involvement programs, which include parent education, providing materials and activities that will assist parents/families in supporting classroom learning and their children's achievement. Assistance will be provided for parents in understanding the State's academic standards, assessments and how to monitor a child's progress.

Families need to be included in the workings of schools in many different ways, to make them feel an essential part of the educational process. Thus, EASTCONN will commit to seeing that the schools develop new and more meaningful ways for parents to be actively involved in their children's education.

Improved student achievement must be the shared responsibility and ultimate goal of parents, teachers, the school system as a whole and the community at large. EASTCONN will follow a course of action that will make parent involvement an ongoing process that is viewed as a valuable resource in all children's education.

EASTCONN will annually review this policy with Administrators and parents and survey all partners to evaluate its content and effectiveness. Principals will present their efforts throughout the year and discuss plans for the upcoming year. Principals and parents will discuss barriers to parent involvement along with possible solutions. Special attention will be paid to identify and involve any group of parents not participating. These discussions and findings may be used to revise this policy.

EASTCONN shall ensure that information communicated to parents is in an understandable format and is adaptable if needed. Parents will be consulted in order to achieve this goal.

Policy adopted: 8/23/2022
Revised:
Replaces: 1110.1