

HUMBOLDT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY 3195 BUSINESS, NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

DISTRICT PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

The Humboldt County School District Board of Trustees recognizes that greater parental involvement generally results in higher academic achievement, improved behavior, and reduced absenteeism. Therefore, parents are encouraged to take an active role in their children's education in order to enhance the attitudes, behaviors and achievement of their children.

Parents and families provide the primary educational environment for children. Consequently, parents are vital and necessary partners with the educational communities throughout their children's school career. Although parents come to the schools with diverse cultural backgrounds, primary languages and needs, it is assumed that parents share a common interest in an excellent education for their children. Humboldt County schools, in collaboration with parents, teachers, students and administrators, shall develop and promote strategies that enhance parental involvement and reflect the needs of students, parents, and families.

The Humboldt County School District believes that staff members are willing to communicate with any parent who has a concern regarding the educational process and the educational success of his/her child. The Board of Trustees encourages parents to initiate such contacts.

The Board believes that parents can become involved through:

- Fulfilling basic parental responsibilities for their children's educational and social development at home, such as:
 - o Ensuring that children arrive at school well rested
 - o Ensuring that children are appropriately clothed
 - o Ensuring children are well fed
 - o Ensuring that dedicated space and time are provided for homework; and signing and returning, complying with, and having children comply with, the Educational Involvement Accord that is distributed annually
- Working with their children such as:
 - o Providing home-based learning activities for their children;
 - o Monitoring homework; and
 - o Providing tutoring to their children and others
- Participating in and supporting school events, such as;
 - o Attending meetings and parent/teacher conferences;
 - o Attending school programs and sporting events;
 - o Volunteering time;
 - o Serving as a chaperone for field trips or other school events; and
 - o Fundraising
- Serving as an advisor or decision maker, such as:
 - o Serving on a committee (School Performance Plan Team, District Performance Plan

Team, Parent Teacher Organization, etc.); and

- o Helping in the governance of the school as part of one of the above mentioned
- o committees
- Being an advocate for the school and its program in the community, such as:
 - o Vocally supporting efforts to increase school funding;
 - o Encourage local businesses to form partnerships with schools, and
 - o Serving as part of a district-organized committee at community and legislative forums

In order to enhance parental involvement, six essential elements consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, will be implemented:

1. **Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful.** Effective communication requires school initiated contact with the parent as well as parent initiated contact with the school so that both parties provide vital information about a child's strengths, challenges, and accomplishments. To communicate effectively, both parties must be aware of and address issues such as cultural diversity, language differences, and special needs. Appropriate steps shall be taken to allow clear communication among participants.
2. **Responsible parenting is promoted and supported.** The family plays a primary role in a child's education, and schools must respect and honor traditions and activities unique to a community's cultural practices and beliefs. School staff shall support positive parenting by respecting and affirming the strengths and skills needed by parents to fulfill their role. Wherever necessary, parents shall be linked to community programs and resources that provide essential support services.
3. **Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning.** Educators shall recognize and acknowledge parents as the integral and primary facilitators of their children's education. Schools shall provide opportunities for parents to learn effective ways support their children's educational needs, including information on how parents can support student behaviors such as punctuality and attendance.
4. **Schools are open and inviting to parents and families and actively seek parental support and assistance for school programs.** Parents are made to feel safe and welcome in their children's schools and will be invited to volunteer at all education levels, capitalizing on their skills and interests in order to strengthen the family, school and community partnerships.
5. **Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families.** Parents and educators have a mutual responsibility to make informal decisions related to all aspects of the education provided to District students. Schools shall actively enlist parent participation in decision-making. Efforts shall be made to recruit and support participation by parents representing diverse student groups such as Limited English proficient, special needs, gifted and talented and homeless. The role of parents in shared decision-making

shall be continually evaluated, refined, and expanded.

6. **Community resources are made available to strengthen and promote school programs, practices, and student achievement.** Schools and parents will work together with members of the community to identify community resources and innovative programs to increase educational opportunities for children.

DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The **Humboldt County School District** will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
HCSD will appoint parent representatives to serve on the committee for the District Performance Plan.
2. The **Humboldt County School District** will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
HCSD encourages parent participation on all School Performance Plan committees and each site administrator will make an effort to give parents an opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way during this process.
3. The **Humboldt County School District** will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
The HCSD Title I Office will work to provide professional development to the Parent Involvement Coordinator. Support for implementation will be provided by the District and the NDE Title 1 personnel.
4. The **Humboldt County School District** will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: Pre-kindergarten program, Headstart by:
The HCSD's Parent Involvement Coordinator provides the vehicle for coordinating and integrating programs and activities. An effort will be made to align resources through Title 1, Title 1 C, SB 504 and Title 3 to meet the needs of diverse populations.
5. The **Humboldt County School District** will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.
6. *The District's Director of Educational Opportunity in partnership with the Parent Involvement*

Coordinator and parent representatives will collect school site data on parent involvement annually through a comprehensive district-wide needs assessment. Data will be collected from parents, teachers and administrators, synthesized and shared with district administrators, school site staff and the board of trustees. The data will be provided to schools in time to guide program improvements in working towards more effective parental involvement for the next school cycle.

7. The **Humboldt County School District** will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

- A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --

- Nevada Academic Content Standards (NVACS)
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators

The HCSD will provide information on the NVACS, achievement standards and academic assessments in a variety of ways. This information may be shared in the annual Title 1 meeting, monthly Parent/Teacher Organization meetings, and twice yearly Parent/Teacher conferences. Additionally, schools may plan school family learning nights and workshops to help families to better understand these topics.

- B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:

The HCSD will provide materials and training that may include resources such as educational websites, informational literature and workshops on using district technology including Infinite Campus, A+, Study Island, Accelerated Reader, Reflex Math, and RAZ Kids.

- C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

The District will work with the Parent Involvement Council, the District Title I Office, the Parent/Community Coordinator, the Nevada Department of Education to provide

professional development on parent involvement to its administrators, teachers and support staff. The training will include information on how to positively use existing resources such as the Nevada State Educational Involvement Accord, parent groups and Professional Learning Communities.

- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, public library literacy programs, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, parent teacher organizations, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

HCSD seeks every opportunity to work with community programs. Currently HCSD operates a Pre-K program funded by Legislative dollars. Coordination of Professional Development activities is arranged with all parties involved.

- E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent- programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

The District uses a variety of media methods to communicate the availability of programs to parents. These methods include but are not limited to: direct mail to home, flyers sent from school, the District's website, Infinite Campus, Peachjar, teacher and student-generated instructional videos, collaboration with other related programs and an electronic phone dialing system. The District provides communication in Spanish for families requiring language accommodation.

A primary goal of Humboldt County School District is to provide all students with equal access to quality education. It is vital that all partners (parents, educators, businesses, and communities) have the opportunity to provide input and offer resources to meet this goal. These partnerships are mutually beneficial. Developing cooperative efforts and linking access to resources will ensure improved academic achievement for all students, as well as quality schools.

If parents would like to see any changes in the above policy, please contact DeAnna Owens, Director of Educational Opportunity, 775-623-8128.

HCSD DPIIP
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