

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HUMBOLDT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY 5010

PUPILS

Parent Involvement/Family Engagement

Empowering Parents to Participate in Their Children's Education.

The Humboldt County School District recognizes that parental involvement is the key to academic achievement. The term parent refers to any caregiver who assumes responsibility for nurturing and caring for children, including parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, foster parents, stepparents, etc. Studies demonstrate that when parents are involved in their children's education, the attitudes, behaviors, and achievement of students are positively enhanced.

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, universally all parents want teachers, students and administrators to work with parents to establish and develop efforts that enhance parental involvement and reflect the needs of students, parents, and families in their respective community.

In order to enhance parental involvement and promote family engagement in all the schools in the Humboldt County School District, six essential standards will be promoted:

Standard 1: Welcoming all families into the school community— Parents and families are active participants in the life of the school. A positive educational environment is established by treating families in respectful and culturally sensitive ways. Every effort will be made to make parents and families feel welcomed and valued in the school community.

Standard 2: Communicating effectively—Parents, families and school staff will engage in meaningful two-way communication about student learning. Families know how to provide input and respond to school communication. Written and spoken interaction between families and teachers will be respectful.

Standard 3: Supporting student well-being and academic success—Parents, families and school staff will continuously collaborate to support student learning and healthy development both at home and at school. Teachers will use data to show parents and families how their student is doing both individually and compared to grade level standards. To the extent practicable, families will receive information, resources and training from teachers and school staff on how they can support their student's learning at home.

Standard 4: Speaking up for every child—Parents and families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children in order to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success. Teachers will work with families to take advantage of

resources and programs that support student success. (ELL, tutoring, counseling) The teachers and school staff will encourage advocacy for students to resolve problems/conflicts.

Standard 5: Sharing power—Parents, families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs. The teacher will work in collaboration with families to establish an equal voice and mutual understanding in decisions regarding their student's education. Families are encouraged to become active participants in the school culture at the local and district level. The schools will encourage purposeful engagement in parent advisory groups, school board meetings, school functions, and activities.

Standard 6: Collaborating with community—Parents, families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation. The teacher and school staff will communicate with families about services/resources and will make referrals to programs and plan activities that expand learning opportunities. Schools will develop resources to purposefully include and collaborate with community organizations to participate in classrooms, school events and activities.

Reference: State Board of Education, Parent Involvement Policy, 2015

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