



PARENT/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION

Background

The District recognizes that the most effective education for students occurs when parents are active partners in the learning process.

The District values the needs, interests, and perspectives expressed by parents. The District supports parental involvement and encourages parents to participate in opportunities that will foster a positive school climate and enrich students' learning experiences.

School staff, and parents should work together as knowledgeable partners. Such collaborative partnerships provide an atmosphere of teamwork which, motivates, supports, and encourages children to become lifelong learners, and valuable contributors to society.

Continued parental involvement in the education of children/youth, throughout all grade levels, contributes greatly to student achievement and a positive school environment.

“Parents have the right and responsibility to participate in the process of determining the educational goals, policies, and services provided for their children. They have the primary responsibility to ensure that children are provided with the healthy, and supportive environment necessary for learning. They have a responsibility to help shape, and support the goals of the school system and to share in the tasks of educating their young.”

- Statement of Education Policy Order

Definition

Parent refers to any caregiver who assumes the responsibility for nurturing and caring for the child.

Procedures

1. The District believes that active parent involvement is not limited to, but includes:
 - 1.1. Serving as responsible advocates for their child's educational needs.
 - 1.2. Participating in classroom activities and school-related activities, functions and events.
 - 1.3. Participating in the activities of Parents' Advisory Councils and other school-related advisory and governance activities.
 - 1.4. Working cooperatively with the school to solve problems and to create positive, productive learning environments both at home and at school.



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- 1.5. Supporting the school in instilling an appreciation for the value of education and a sense of individual responsibility for learning and achievement.
- 1.6. Preparing a child for school and monitoring and responding to school-related responsibilities.
2. The District will encourage, support, and promote parent involvement through:
 - 2.1. Providing a welcoming and open atmosphere at all schools.
 - 2.2. Promoting effective communication between school and home.
 - 2.3. Providing opportunities for parent involvement in their child's education, and in the life of the school community, in a variety of ways – before, during, and after school.
 - 2.4. Promoting cooperative planning and decision making.
 - 2.5. Developing, implementing, and assessing parent involvement programs at all grade levels.
 - 2.6. Supporting parent in-service opportunities to enhance the effectiveness of the parent/teacher team.
 - 2.7. Supporting professional development opportunities for staff members to enhance the understanding of effective parent involvement strategies and procedures.
 - 2.8. Supporting parent education opportunities to promote effective parenting.
3. Effective parent involvement is based on good practice. Long lasting gains for students occur when parent involvement activities are well-planned, inclusive, and comprehensive, at all grade levels.

Reference: Section 8, 20, 22, 23, 65, 85 *School Act*
Statement of Education Policy Order OIC 1280/89

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