

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

This policy was developed jointly with, and agreed upon and distributed to, parents and family members of District students. All parents of District students shall be notified of this policy in an understandable and uniform format, and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. This policy shall be provided to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the District.

The Board of Education desires for meaningful parent and family involvement in the educational process for District students. To achieve that objective, the Board will:

1. Involve parents and family members in jointly developing the District's "local educational agency plan" under 20 U.S.C. §6312, and the development of support and improvement plans under 20 U.S.C. §6311(d)(1) and (2). The Board will do this by involving families as partners in the process of school review, compliance, and continuous improvement planning. The Board will involve families in the development of its District-wide involvement policy and plan, and distributing the policy and plan to families.
2. Provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all of the District's schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education. The Board will do this by building constructive partnerships and connecting families with community-based programs, along with other community resources. The Board will coordinate and integrate family involvement programs and activities with District initiative and community-based programs that encourage and support families' participation in their children's education, growth, and development.
3. Coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs. The Board will do this by providing information to families about state, federal, school, and District policies, procedures, laws, programs, and activities. The Board will promote regular and open communication between school personnel and student's family members. The Board will communicate with families in a format and language that is understandable, to the extent practicable.
4. Conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this policy in improving the academic quality of all District schools, including identifying: (i) barriers to greater participation by parents in authorized 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); (ii) the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and

teachers; and (iii) strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The Board will do this by cultivating school environments that are welcoming, supportive, and student centered. The Board will provide professional development for school staff that helps build partnerships between families and schools. The Board will provide family activities that relate to various cultures, languages, practices, and customs, and bridge economic and cultural barriers. The Board will provide coordination, technical support, and other support to assist schools in planning and implementing family involvement activities.

5. Use the findings of such evaluation in paragraph (4), above, to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policies described in this section. Each year, the Superintendent, along with building principals, will work with parents of children served in Title I Programs in order to jointly develop and agree upon a proposed written parent involvement policy to establish expectations. This policy shall be reviewed and approved by the Board each year. The Board, in consultation with parents, will annually evaluate the content and effectiveness of the parent involvement policy in improving the academic and engagement quality of schools.
6. Involve parents in the activities of the schools of the District, which may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the local educational agency to adequately represent the needs of the population served by such agency for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy. The Board will do this by scheduling regular meetings, upon request, for parents to make suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to improvement of the District's parent and family engagement.

Policy Involvement

To facilitate the involvement of parents and families under this policy, the District shall:

1. Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of District students shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of the District's obligations under 20 U.S.C. §6318, and to explain the requirements of that statute and the right of the parents to be involved. The District will do this by annually evaluating, in consultation with parents, the content and effectiveness of the parent involvement policy in improving the academic quality of schools, including: identifying barriers to greater participation, designing strategies for more effective parental involvement, and revising the parental involvement policy if necessary.
2. Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement. The District will do this by conducting annual meetings with parents, including provisions for flexible scheduling and assistance to parents to better assure their attendance at meetings. Meetings with parents of children receiving

Title I services must be scheduled at flexible times, with assistance such as child care, transportation, home visits, or similar aid offered to parents to encourage their involvement.

3. Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under this policy, including the planning, review, and improvement of this policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan under 20 U.S.C. §6314(b). Each principal must convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children are invited and encouraged to attend, to explain the parents' rights to be involved and the school's obligation to develop a parental involvement plan. Schools will conduct annual meetings with parents, including provisions for flexible scheduling and assistance to parents to better assure their attendance at meetings.
4. Provide parents of participating children: (a) timely information about programs under this policy; (b) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and (c) if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible. The District will do this by providing parents timely information about the Title I program and the school's parent involvement policy. The District will provide parents a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels expected. Schools will conduct regular meetings, upon request, for parents to make suggestions, and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and receive responses regarding the parents' suggestions about their student's education as soon as practicably possible.
5. If the schoolwide program plan under 20 U.S.C. §6314(b) is not satisfactory to the parents of students, the school will submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the Board. Each year, the Superintendent, along with building principals, will work with parents of children served in Title I Programs in order to jointly develop and agree upon a proposed written parent involvement policy to establish expectations. This policy shall be reviewed and approved by the Board each year. The District, in consultation with parents, will annually evaluate the content and effectiveness of the parent involvement policy in improving the academic and engagement quality of schools.

School-Parent Compact

The Board desires for parents, the entire school staff, and students to share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The means by which the District and parents will build and develop a partnership to help students achieve the State's high standards are as follows:

1. Describe the District's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables its students to meet the challenging State academic standards, and the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time:

The District will describe the parents' responsibility to support their child's learning environment, such as monitoring attendance, homework, extra-curricular activities, and excessive television watching; volunteering in the classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children. The District will address the importance of parent/teacher communication on an ongoing basis through at least annual parent/teacher conferences to discuss achievement and the compact; frequent progress reports to the parents on their child's progress; and reasonable access to the staff and to observe and participate in classroom activities.

2. Address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum: (a) parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement; (b) frequent reports to parents on their children's progress; (c) reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities; and (d) ensuring regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand:

The District will provide information and involve families in the monitoring of student progress on an annual basis. The District will provide families with timely and meaningful information regarding Ohio's academic standards and state and local assessments. District communication with parents will be open and easily understandable for parents. The District will provide volunteer opportunities for families to support their children's school activities, and will support other needs to enable families to participate in school-sponsored family involvement events.

Building Capacity for Involvement

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the District, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, the District:

1. Shall provide assistance to parents of District students, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of 20 U.S.C. §6318, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children. The District will do this by providing families with timely and meaningful information regarding Ohio's academic standards and state and local assessments. District communication with parents will be open and easily understandable for parents. The District will offer training and

resources to help families learn strategies and skills to support at-home learning and success in school. The District will help families to provide a school and home environment that encourages learning and extends learning at home.

2. Shall provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement. The District will do this by providing coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student achievement and school performance. The District will coordinate and integrate parent involvement strategies with parent involvement strategies under other programs, such as Preschool, STAR Early Literacy, STAR Reading, STAR Math, and TGRG. The District will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language such as parents can understand.
3. Shall educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school. The District will do this by educating teachers, pupil services personnel, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, about the value and utility of contributions of parents; how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners; how to implement and coordinate parent programs; and how to build ties between parents and the school. The District will involve parents in the development of training for teachers and administrators to improve the effectiveness of such training. The District will provide professional development for school staff that helps build partnerships between families and schools.
4. Shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool 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. The District will do this by continuing to provide coordination, technical support, and other support to assist schools in planning and implementing family involvement activities. The District will coordinate and integrate parent involvement strategies with parent involvement strategies under other programs, such as Preschool, 21st Century Grant, Kindergarten Readiness and Screening Events, and Early Literacy Programs. The District will involve parents of children receiving Title I services in deciding how Title I funds reserved for parent involvement activities will be allocated. The District will conduct other activities as appropriate to the Title I plan and state and federal requirements.

5. Shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. The District will do this by conducting meetings with parents, including provisions for flexible scheduling and assistance to parents to better assure their attendance at meetings. The District will communicate information concerning school performance profiles and their child's individual performance to parents. The District will conduct regular meetings, upon request, for parents to make suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and to receive responses regarding the parents' suggestions about their student's education as soon as practicably possible.
6. Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this policy as parents may request. The District will do this by providing volunteer opportunities for families to support their children's school activities. The District will also support other needs to enable families to participate in school-sponsored family involvement events. The District will continue coordinating and integrating family involvement programs and activities with District initiatives and community-based programs that encourage and support families' participation in their children's education, growth, and development.

Accessibility

In carrying out the requirements of this policy and 20 U.S.C. §6318, the District, to the extent practicable, shall provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children), including providing information and school reports required under 20 U.S.C. §6311, in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents will understand.

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §6318

Adopted: May 21, 2018