

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 parents and family members in the District’s strategic planning process, Ohio Improvement Process (“OIP”), PTAs, and Curriculum Advisory Council.
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 involving parents and family members in the District’s strategic planning process, OIP, PTAs, and Curriculum Advisory Council.
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 consistently reviewing changes to Federal, State, and local laws and programs and responding appropriately.
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 conducting annual Title I family surveys, periodic District-wide community surveys, community participation in the OIP and strategic plan meetings, community participation in Curriculum Advisory Council, and development of a continuous parental electronic “suggestion box.”

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. The Board will do this by continuing in process of the OIP and regularly updating the District's strategic plan.
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 providing opportunities for parents to participate in school activities and provide feedback through a variety of methods.

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 annual notice to be shared/discussed at a regularly-scheduled Board meeting each school year.
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 hosting meetings at various times, using technology to facilitate parent involvement, and teaming with local partners to provide transportation and child care when necessary.
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). The District will do this by reviewing and improving this policy through the strategic planning and OIP committee.
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 information about programs under this policy through the school website, along the lines of other annual notices.

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. If the District receives any parent comments on the plan, the comments will be shared/addressed at the next District OIP meeting.

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 purpose of a home-school compact is to foster student achievement. Responsibility for improved student achievement will be shared by parents, the teachers, and the student. It is the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective environment that enables children to meet high performance standards. It is the parents' responsibility to support their children's learning.

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:

Teachers can encourage ongoing communication at parent-teacher conferences; quarterly report cards can be shared; grades can be updated through Progressbook; and principals will share, through newsletters and meetings such as Open Houses, the opportunities to volunteer in the buildings.

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 encouraging parents to participate in the Curriculum Advisory Council meetings.
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 offering “Parent Tech Nights” and family literacy events.
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 emphasizing the importance of parent involvement as equal partners to the staff, and providing professional development opportunities on building ties between parents and the schools through the assistance of the diversity organizations affiliated with the District.
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 participating in the Kindergarten Readiness Coalition program.
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 translating relevant forms and offering a language translator on the District website.
6. Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this policy as parents may request. The District will do this by monitoring input from parents and making adjustments as necessary.

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 14, 2018