

## Parental Involvement Policy

The Board of Education believes that positive parental involvement is essential to student achievement, and thus encourages such involvement in school educational planning and curricular activities.

For purposes of this policy, parental involvement refers to the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities.

The term parent refers to a natural parent, legal guardian or other person standing in *loco parentis* (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the child's welfare).

The Board, along with the superintendent of schools and other appropriate district staff will undertake the following actions to ensure parent involvement in the development of the district wide parental involvement plan:

- Conduct with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement plan in improving the academic quality in all schools, including the identification of barriers to greater participation by parents in activities under this policy, and the revision of parent involvement policies necessary for more effective involvement.

The superintendent of schools will ensure that all district schools are provided with technical assistance and all other support necessary to assist them in planning and implementing effective parental involvement programs and activities that improve student achievement and school performance. In addition the superintendent will:

- Assist parents in understanding such topics as the state's academic content and student achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, Title I requirements, how to monitor their child's progress and how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child.
- Provide materials and training to help parents work with their child's academic achievement.
- Educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff in understanding the value of a parent's contributions.
- Ensure that information related to school and parent-related programs, meetings and other activities is sent to the parents of children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats, upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parent can understand.

The district will coordinate and integrate strategies adopted to align with the NCLB Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements with parental involvement strategies adopted in connection with: Reading First and 21<sup>st</sup> Century funded programs.

## Regulations

The Board directs the Superintendent of Schools to develop a home-school communications program in an effort to encourage all forms of parental involvement.

To facilitate this policy, the Board encourages parental involvement at home (e.g., planned home reading time, informal learning activities, and/or homework “contracts” between parents and children).

At a minimum, parental involvement programs, activities and procedures at both the district and individual school level must ensure that parents:

- play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; and;
- are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.

District and school level parental involvement programs, activities and procedures will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.

Parents are encouraged to participate in the process for developing a school improvement plan when the school their child attends fails to make adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years and is identified as a school in need of improvement.

### Parent participation in development of district wide parental involvement plan

- 1) Conduct at least one annual meeting to review and evaluate parental involvement policies;
- 2) Conduct an annual community survey to evaluate the level of satisfaction with parental involvement activities;
- 3) All building continuous improvement plans will implement and evaluate building level parent involvement activities.

### Review of district wide parental involvement plan

To facilitate this, the district will conduct the following activities:

- Establish, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of our schools;
- Identify barriers to greater parent participation;
- Encourage involvement and sharing of activities at our schools, as well as revision of the parent involvement policies for future success.

## Regulations (Cont'd)

### Development of school level parental involvement plans

As appropriate to meet individual local needs, the superintendent will encourage:

- Cultural fairs celebrating diversity of student body that includes but are not limited to historical events, foods, music and dance with parents involved in the planning;
- Activities that encourage interactive homework assignments;
- Monthly parent meetings and open houses with special events;
- Maintenance of a Parent Resource Center;
- Strategies in each school for parent and community engagement with district wide coordination;
- Communications that include a district calendar and bi-monthly newsletters;
- Annual surveys to determine parent/student satisfaction;
- District based websites with links to building schools;
- The maintenance of a city wide phone messaging system for immediate contact with all parents and guardian.

### Building capacity for parental involvement

To build parent capacity for strong parental involvement to improve their child's academic achievement, the district and its schools will, at a minimum:

- Provide ongoing professional development for teachers, pupil personnel, administrators, and other staff, with the assistance of parents input. The professional development will focus on the importance of parental involvement and how to engage, communicate with and work with parents as partners. In accordance with the district-wide strategic plan, the district will, utilizing the Parent Resource Center and the individual building's Continuous Improvement Plan, implement and coordinate parental education and information programs, and continuously build ties between parents and the schools.

To achieve this objective, the district and its schools will:

- Foster positive relationships between home and school by providing materials and training programs that are specific to parent needs to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement. These programs may include literacy programs, parenting classes, and community projects, which will be offered at varied times, etc.
- Reach out, to communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners;
- Implement and coordinate parent programs; and;
- Build ties between parents and the schools;
- Provide evening GED programs for adults;
- Provide evening ESL programs.

Ref: §1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act  
8 NYCRR §§100.3(b) (3); 100.4(f); 100.5(d)(4); 149.3(16)

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: November 16, 2004

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: December 21, 2004

Adopted: December 21, 2004

**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT  
SCHOOL LEVEL POLICY**

Each school recognizes that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning. We encourage parents to be actively involved in their child's education at school and to become full partners in school educational planning and operations. Consistent with the parent involvement goals of Title I, Part A of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB):

1. The building principal and appropriate staff shall convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I programs, and to explain Title I requirements and the right of the parents to be involved. All parents of children participating in a Title I program will be invited to the meeting.
2. The school staff shall offer a flexible number of meetings to provide parents the opportunity to meet with school staff and otherwise participate in their child's education. These meetings shall be held at flexible times (e.g., morning or evening) and/or in highly accessible places.
3. The school will provide parents with timely information about Title I programs. School staff will also describe and explain the curriculum in use at the school, the types of academic assessment that will be used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels the students are expected to meet. Parents may also request regular meetings with school staff to make suggestions to participate, as appropriate in decisions relating to the education of their child. The school will respond to any such suggestions as soon as practical.
4. The school staff shall involve parents, in an organized and timely way, in the planning, review and improvement of Continuous Improvement plan (CIP), including the planning, review and improvement of the school's parent involvement policy

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: November 16, 2004  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: December 21, 2004  
Adopted: December 21, 2004

## **SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT**

To help our children achieve, we agree to abide by the following conditions during the 2004-2005 school year.

### **School Responsibilities**

The school will:

- Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment;
- Hold parent-teacher conferences. During these conferences, this compact will be discussed as it relates to your child's academic achievement;
- Provide parents with frequent reports on their child's progress;
- Provide parents reasonable access to staff; and;
- Provide parents with opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class and to observe classroom activities.

### **Parent Responsibilities**

We, as parents, will support our children's learning in the following ways:

- Monitor my child's attendance;
- Make sure that homework is completed;
- Limit amount of television my child watches;
- Volunteer when possible in my child's school;
- Participate in decisions regarding my child's education;
- Promote positive use of my child's extracurricular time; and;
- Stay informed about my child's education and communicate with the school regularly.

### **Student Responsibilities**

As a student, I will share the responsibility to improve my grades, and agree to:

- Do homework everyday and ask for help when needed;
- Read at least 20 minutes a day outside of school; and;
- Give to my parents all notices and information received by me from my school every day.

School	Parent	Student
Date	Date	Date

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: November 16, 2004

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: December 21, 2004

Adopted: December 21, 2004