

The Board of Education recognizes that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and family during the entire period the child spends in school. To support the goals of the school district to educate all students effectively, the schools and parents must work as knowledgeable partners.

Although parents are diverse in culture, language, and needs, they share the school's commitment to the educational success of their children. School districts and schools, in collaboration with the parents, shall establish and develop programs and practices that enhance parent involvement and reflect the specific needs of students and families.

Parents can assist their children and schools in many ways. A variety of methods may be used to increase parental participation in school programs and activities. In addition to school "open house" and increased communication between parents and teachers, schools may encourage parent volunteers to supervise, chaperone, and act as mentors both inside and outside of the classroom.

Board Policy P0230 "Commitment to the Principles of the New Compact For Learning" describes the six principles involving all participants in the educational process. Also, in accordance with the Commissioner's Regulation 100.11, a District plan has been approved for parents and teachers to work with administrators and the school board in school-based planning and shared decision making. Schools councils are organized in each school building to implement this regulation.

On the classroom level, teachers should be encouraged to develop practices for involving parents at home. These may include but are not limited to planned home reading, informal learning activities, and homework contracts between parents and children.

In order to promote family involvement on all levels, the district should:

- create a climate that fosters and supports family participation in the schools,
- promote clear two-way communication between the school and the family as to school programs and children's progress,
- corroborate the link between parental involvement and student achievement; and
- provide training/in-service for staff and interested adults to build stronger relationships between home and school.

The Board of Education encourages a district-wide effort to support parent involvement.

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