



## **Parental Involvement**

The Governing Authority recognizes and values parents and families as children's first teachers and play the key role in the decision making process as it impacts their student(s) education. The Board believes that student learning is more likely to occur when there is a collaborative partnership between the school and the student's parents, foster caregivers and/or guardians. Such a partnership between the home and school results in higher academic achievement, improved student behavior, and reduces absenteeism.

Our first priority is to create a welcoming, open door policy that is family-friendly, supportive, informative, instructional, and nonjudgmental. The school will represent a safe space for families to gather, socialize and engage with each other families through the hosting of family nights, back-to-school events and holiday celebrations.

In accordance with statute and the State Board of Education Parent and Family Involvement Policy, use of the term "families" is used in order to include children's primary caregivers, who are not their biological parents, such as foster caregivers, grandparents, and other family members.

In cultivating partnerships with families and communities, the Board is committed to the following:

### **A. Relationships with Families**

1. establishing school environments that are welcoming, supportive, and student-centered
2. providing professional development for school staff that supports partnerships between families and schools
3. providing family activities that relate to various cultures, languages, practices, and customs, and bridge economic and cultural barriers
4. providing coordination, technical support and any assistance needed to plan and/or implement family involved activities

### **B. Effective Communication**

1. providing information to families to support the proper health, safety, and well-being of their children
2. providing information to families about school policies, procedures, programs, and activities
3. promoting regular and open communication between school personnel and students' family members



4. communicating with families in a format and language that is understandable
5. providing information and involving families in monitoring student progress
6. providing families with timely and meaningful information regarding Ohio's academic standards, state and local assessments, and pertinent legal provisions
7. preparing families to be involved in meaningful discussions and meetings with school staff

### **C. Volunteer Opportunities:**

This policy serves to notify every School volunteer who has regular unsupervised access to students that the School must be conduct a background check or request a set of fingerprints. The school will cover the cost associated with the background check.

If the criminal background reveals that the volunteer has been convicted of or plead guilty to any offense described in section 109.572 of the Ohio Revised Code, the School will not permit the volunteer to have unsupervised access to students unless the following are satisfied:

- A written notice is sent out to the parent or guardian of each student enrolled in the School, stating the name of the volunteer and indicating that the volunteer has been convicted of or plead guilty to one or more of the prohibited offenses; and
- The notice is sent out to each parent either when the School starts providing services to the student or when the School decides to accept the volunteer despite the volunteer's previous offense, whichever comes later.
- All volunteers must be approved by the School Director, volunteers are assigned to area of need

### **How to Sign up?**

- Complete Volunteer Request Form and submit to School Director
- Complete Background Check
- School Director will notify volunteer of background results, assigned area and staff contact

The School Director has the authority and sole discretion to prohibit any individual from entering School property if the Head Administrator has reason to believe that such individual's presence would be detrimental to the effective operation of the School.

Any individual who disrupts the educational environment, acts in a disorderly manner, damages School property, or violates the law or these Policies may be requested to leave School property, and the local law enforcement agency may be contacted if necessary.



**Approved Volunteers:**

- All volunteers must immediately sign-in on the visitor log
- Work in assigned area
- Contact staff contact when unable to report for volunteer hours
- Report all concerns to staff contact

**Terms:**

- Staff contact: School employee assigned to lead volunteers, outline scope of volunteer services, stay in contact with volunteer
- Volunteer: Not employed by the staff, may or may not be a parent of the school

**D. Learning at Home**

1. offering training and resources to help families learn strategies and skills to support at-home learning and success in school
2. working with families to establish learning goals and help their children accomplish these goals
3. helping families to provide a school and home environment that encourages learning and extends learning at home

**E. Involving Families in Decision Making and Advocacy**

1. involving families as partners in the process of school review and continuous improvement planning
2. involving families in the development of its District-wide parent involvement policy and plan, and distributing the policy and plan to families

**F. Collaborating with the Community**

1. building constructive partnerships and connecting families with community-based programs and other community resources
2. 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

The following communication method shall be in place and will provide the opportunity for parents and foster caregivers to be actively involved in their children's or foster children's education: Not Limited to

- General school meetings
- Newsletter
- Student/Parent Teacher Conference
- School Website



- Social Media
- School Events
- Onecall System
- Direct Mail