

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The Washington County School District encourages, supports and values the participation and involvement of parents, families, and all others who assume the responsibility for nurturing and caring for children. Studies demonstrate that the attitudes, behaviors, and achievement of students are positively enhanced when caregivers partner with the educational community to support the continuing development and well being of students.

Effective parent involvement promotes a regular two-way meaningful communication between parents and school. Schools need to inform parents about academic standards, the curriculum, their child's progress, school and district activities and educational issues. At the same time, schools need to welcome parents to provide input on and be involved in matters that affect their children's education.

It is the goal of the district with the implementation of this policy to help parents realize the variety of ways in which they can participate in school functions. Whether they reinforce class lessons with practice at home, serve on a parent advisory committee, volunteer in the classroom or on field trips, or participate in parent teacher conferences, parents can impact their child's learning in significant and lasting ways. The District embraces the responsibility to help parents access and secure educational information, services, and opportunities for their children.

District goals include but are not limited to the following:

1. The school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of all parents and caregivers, including parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable in a language parents understand.
2. Ensure parents and caregiver involvement in the development of district policy, procedures, strategies and plans pertaining to parent involvement and school improvement.
3. Provide professional development opportunities for teachers, administrators, and other district employees to enhance the ability of schools to effectively serve all students, parents, and families.

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4. Recognize schools with exemplary parental involvement programs and disseminate these practices throughout the District.
5. Collaborate and cooperate with businesses, community agencies, and faith based organizations to support the need of parents and families and to provide services to the community.
6. An ongoing evaluation of the effectiveness of the parent involvement policy and activities in improving school and student performance will be conducted through an annual parent survey.
7. Adhere to the mandates of all state and federal legislation addressing parental involvement issues.

Implementation strategies by Superintendent and Staff:

1. Communicate the value of an education, the importance of high expectations and the fact that parental involvement is critical to child development and vitally important to child learning.
2. Parent involvement goals, initiatives and evaluation strategies shall be incorporated into the strategic and school renewal planning process.
3. Schools and parents will cultivate relationships with members of the community in order to promote and effectively increase educational opportunities for children.
4. Curriculum information will be made available to all parents at the beginning of each school year.
5. The district will operate a Parent Resource Center that is centrally located at the William N. Neff Center in Abingdon, VA.
6. The district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs with community agencies.
7. The Superintendent will form and meet with a parent advisory committee comprised of parent representatives from each school.
8. Each principal will have a parent advisory committee.

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The Board encourages parents to be involved in their child's education. Suggestions for parental involvement include:

1. Create a positive climate at home regarding school.
2. Become familiar with School Board policies as they apply to attendance, student conduct and homework.
3. Provide regular time, place and supervision for homework completion.
4. Volunteering, participating, or observing in son's/daughter's classroom and/or school.
5. Attend school-parent meetings.
6. Familiarizing themselves with state and district academic standards for each grade and subject area.
7. Communicating with teachers.
8. Supporting other positive parent responsibilities related to successful student learning at school.

Providing all Washington County District students with a quality education is a primary goal. To achieve this goal it is vital that all partners (parents, caregivers, educators, and communities, etc.) have the opportunity to provide input and offer resources to meet this goal. These partnerships are mutually beneficial. Developing cooperative efforts and linking access to resources will ensure improved academic achievement for all students, as well as quality schools.

ADOPTED: October 1, 2007