

PARENT/FAMILY/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- I. The Talbot County Board of Education recognizes that a child’s education, from kindergarten through high school graduation, is a responsibility shared by the school, parents, and community. The Board believes that schools, parents, and children must work together as knowledgeable partners in order to educate all students to their potential. Building strong partnerships among home, school, and community are essential to carrying out the shared responsibility of developing the whole child.
- II. The Board maintains a strong commitment to the role of parents and other caregivers in children’s education and directs that each school, in collaboration with parents, develop and implement programs and practices that promote parent involvement. To this end, the Board supports the development and implementation of a Parent Involvement Policy.
- III. In this Policy, “parent” is defined to include parents, caregivers, and/or legal guardians. The Parent Involvement Policy shall include parents at all grade levels, in a variety of roles and programs, including Title I and Special Education.
- IV. The Board believes that
 - A. all students can learn.
 - B. families are a key resource in their children’s education, regardless of ethnic group, socioeconomic status, or educational background.
 - C. together as partners, schools, families, and communities can succeed in educating children to be able to lead happy, healthy, and productive lives.
- V. The programs and practices of this Policy will promote clear, frequent, two-way communication, as follows:
 - A. between parents and teachers regarding instructional programs and progress of individual students
 - B. between parents and school administrators regarding instructional programs and local school policies
 - C. between parents and the Central Office Administration regarding instructional programs and school system policies and regulations

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- VI. Accordingly, the Board of Education endorses meaningful partnerships among schools, parents, family caregivers, and community, and expects parent participation on district and school committees. It requires schools to involve parents and other caregivers in a variety of family/school activities. The Board believes that the following factors are important for promoting parental involvement:
- A. Parenting
Parenting skills are promoted and supported.
 - B. Communicating
Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful.
 - C. Volunteering
Parents and community members are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance are sought.
 - D. Student Learning
Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning.
 - E. School Decision-Making and Advocacy
Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families.
 - F. Collaborating with the Community
Community resources are used to help develop programs and strengthen schools and families, and support high expectations for all student learning.

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