

PARENT INVOLVEMENT, FAMILY & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - AR

I. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines meaningful partnerships among schools, parents, family caregivers, and community members in the educational process.

II. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- A. Parent involvement efforts should be aimed at developing a climate of open communication and trust whereby parents are welcomed and viewed as an integral part of the educational process.
- B. School personnel should recognize and value the role of parents as the child's first and most influential teacher and that parents should be involved in their child's education.
- C. Community involvement is important for supporting and enriching the educational environment.

III. LOCAL SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES - ADMINISTRATOR (S) AND TEACHER(S)

All school employees are expected to convey commitment to and respect for parent and community involvement. As part of the planning process, each school will assess its needs and develop activities related to parent and community involvement. School staff members should take the initiative to reach out to parents in a variety of ways to encourage parent participation.

Each local school will:

- A. Ensure parent participation on School Improvement Teams and other decision-making roles.
- B. Identify, incorporate, and implement components of parental involvement within each School Improvement Plan.
- C. Develop and maintain clear and consistent two-way communication among Parent/Teacher Associations, Parent/Teacher Organizations, School Improvement Teams, and the school community.
- D. Solicit and consider parent feedback, comments, and concerns.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT/FAMILY/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- E. Provide consistent, frequent, and clear communication regarding
 - 1. local school and school system policies and regulations.
 - 2. regular student progress reports.
 - 3. parent/teacher conferences.
 - 4. school activities.
 - 5. instructional program and courses of study.
 - 6. testing schedules.
 - 7. discipline procedures.
 - 8. support programs and parent resources, including those available through the Maryland Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC).
 - 9. educational opportunities for parents.
 - 10. volunteering opportunities within the school.

- F. Post Board of Education meeting agendas in school offices and other visible places around the school.

- G. Make Board of Education Policies available to parents and the community through the Talbot County Public Schools website and through each school's main office.

- H. Develop strategies and structures to enable parents to actively participate in children's education in the classroom, school building, or at home.

- I. Title I Schools - No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Section 118 (a), (2) Title I) schools will:
 - 1. involve parents in the development of Title I activities (Section 1112).
 - 2. involve parents in Title 1 school activities.
 - 3. involve parents in the annual development and review of the home-school compact.
 - 4. coordinate parental involvement strategies with the Judy Center Partnerships (Head Start, Parents as Teachers, Early Head Start, Talbot Family Network, Talbot Health Department).
 - 5. conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the school.

- J. Set up a Talbot County Public Schools "Welcome Center" in a highly visible location at each school for dissemination of public information materials.

- K. Collaborate with community organizations as appropriate to strengthen schools and families in support of student learning.

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