

PARENT/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT

The Board of Education recognizes that the family is the critical element in an individual's development and that a student's education is a responsibility shared by school and family during the entire period the student spends in school. The Board, in collaboration with families, staff and students, establishes and develops programs that enhance the involvement of families and address the needs of students and families in the Vacaville school community.

The Board encourages and supports schools in their efforts to develop strong comprehensive parent involvement. Comprehensive means that parents* are involved in a variety of roles at all grade levels.

District Responsibilities:

1. Provide parents with information about accessing community services that support school programs, effective family practices, and student learning and development.
2. Provide professional development for staff on how to build effective school and family partnerships.
3. Provide opportunities for family and school community involvement on District/site committees.
4. Integrate parental involvement programs into the school's master plan.
5. Promote two-way (school-to-home and home-to-school) communication about the school's programs and the goals and progress of students.
6. Develop family/school compacts that demonstrate respect for alternative family structures and ethnic and cultural diversity.
7. Develop strategies for involving student, family and community in realizing the educational goals of all students.
8. Inform its parents about strategies for assisting students with learning activities that support and extend the school's instructional program and improve students' academic success.
9. Involve parents in activities that help the school meet its goals and objectives.
10. Prepare parents to participate in school decision making and to develop leadership skills in governance and advocacy.

PARENT/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT (continued)

11. Provide professional development for staff on how to build effective school and family partnerships.
12. Initiate consistent and effective two-way communication between the home and school so that parents/guardians may know when and how to help their children in support of classroom learning activities

(cf. 5124 - Communication with Parents/Guardians)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

13. Receive training that fosters effective and culturally sensitive communication with the home, including training on how to communicate with non-English speakers and how to give parents/guardians opportunities to assist in the instructional process both at school and at home

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

14. Encourage parents/guardians to serve as volunteers in the schools, attend student performances and school meetings, and participate in site councils, advisory councils and other activities in which they may undertake governance, advisory and advocacy roles

(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)

(cf. 0420.1 - School-Based Program Coordination)

(cf. 0420.3 - School-Based Pupil Motivation and Maintenance Program)

(cf. 0420.5 - School-Based Decision Making)

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)

(cf. 1250 - Visitors/Outsiders)

(cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)

Parental involvement requires a coordinated school-wide effort that has the support of families, staff and students at each school site. Research indicates that home-school collaboration is most likely to succeed when schools take the initiative to encourage, guide and welcome families into the partnership.

The issue of family involvement in the education of children is much larger than improving student achievement. It is central to our democracy that parents and citizens participate in the governing of public institutions. Family involvement is fundamental to a healthy system of public education.

PARENT/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT (continued)

* The term parent refers to any caregiver who assumes responsibility for nurturing and caring for children.

Strategic Plan Reference: Beliefs, Mission and Objectives

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

11500-11506 Programs to Encourage Parental Involvement Chapter 767.

4426.2 Teacher Credentialing

Management Resources:

California State Board of Education Policy - Parent Involvement In The Education of Their Children

ALSO, SEE POLICY NO. 1217 – VACAVILLE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT