

Board File: KBB

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Douglas County School District (DCSD) Board of Education recognizes the importance, shared responsibility, and partnership between family, schools, and community. Parental (including guardians and other members of the student’s family involved in the student’s education) involvement in the education of students contributes greatly to achievement, and to the positive school environment and experience. The purpose of this policy is to connect and engage those who support our students during their educational journey with DCSD.

The Board recognizes the Colorado Department of Education’s (CDE) three (3) factors influencing effective partnering: experiences, beliefs, and practices. We also support the National Standards for Family-School Partnership and State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education’s (SACPIE) adopted standards. The practice of these six standards provides a foundation of beliefs and a platform for engagement. These relationships connect and engage parents fostering an effective partnership between family, school, and community. We acknowledge school accountability committees (SAC), governing boards, parent-teacher groups, and other school or district-based committees (hereafter referred to as “school partners”) as being a place where parents, school staff, and community members can meet and share collectively and collaboratively within their individual schools. Our district accountability committee (DAC) serves to bridge the gap between SACs and the district.

- **WELCOMING ALL FAMILIES INTO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY**

Families are active participants in the life of the school, and be welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and experiencing in school.

- **COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY**

Families, school staff, and school partners engage in regular, and meaningful two-way communication about student learning and environment.

- **SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS**

Families, school staff, and school partners continuously collaborate to support students’ learning and healthy development both at home and at school and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

- **SPEAKING UP FOR EVERY CHILD**

Families, school staff, and school partners are empowered to advocate and ensure that all students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

- **SHARING POWER**

Families, school staff, and school partners are equal contributors in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.

- **COLLABORATING WITH THE COMMUNITY**

Families, school staff, and school partners collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community service, and civic partnership.

Moreover, DCSD encourages all staff in working with families and the community to keep all partners informed and promote transparency and trust. The district supports professional development opportunities for staff members to enhance, embrace, and implement effective family, school, and community partnership strategies. The Board of Education is recognized as setting an expectation of positive climate and culture conducive for its partners in learning.

The Board directs the Superintendent (or designee) and Board Liaison to identify resources within district committees and the community whom shall serve to support the functions of this policy outlined and work in conjunction with the identified district employee(s). The representatives working on the development, implementation, and evaluation of the standards shall report at the discretion of the Board.

In an effort to implement all or a portion of the parent involvement policy, the district may solicit and accept public or private gifts, grants, or donations to contribute to the success of the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of parental engagement.

For additional best practices, reference Colorado Revised Statute 22-7-307. In the event further support or advocacy is required, it may be helpful to reference Board File: KE in regards to public complaints or grievance.

Adopted: August 21, 2018

Legal References Cited:

CRS 22-32-142 (1)-(3) Parent Engagement

CRS 22-7-302 (5) Definitions: National Standards for Family School Partnership

CRS 22-7-304 Colorado SACPIE

CRS 2207-101-107 Educational Accountability Act of 1971

Cited National Standards for Family School Partnership & SAC

