

POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Related Entries: ABA, ABA-RA, ACG, BMA, FAA, IEA, IEB, IED, IFB, IGP-RA, IRB-RA

Responsible Office: Deputy Superintendent

Parental Involvement

A. PURPOSE

1. To reaffirm the Montgomery County public school system's strong commitment to the role of parents as valued partners in their children's education and to promote and increase effective, comprehensive parental involvement
2. To ensure that parental involvement efforts reflect the rich cultural and linguistic diversity of local school communities

B. ISSUE

Family involvement in a child's learning is a critical link to achieve academic success and to ensure a safe and disciplined learning environment.

C. POSITION

1. Definition

In this policy, "parent" is intended to include parents, guardians, and other family members involved in supervising the child's schooling.

In this policy, "comprehensive parental involvement" is intended to include the research-based, Six National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs as follows:

- a) Communicating
- b) Parenting
- c) Student Learning

- d) Volunteering
- e) School Decision-Making and Advocacy
- f) Collaborating with Community

2. Achievement of the purpose will be sought through a variety of efforts including:

- a) Effective two-way communication between all parents and schools regarding school system policies, practices and regulations, local school policies, and an individual child's progress
- b) Activities to encourage parental volunteer opportunities in schools both in the classroom and in other areas of the school including attendance at local school programs and events
- c) Information and programs for parents on how to establish a home environment to support learning and appropriate behavior
- d) Information and programs for parents about how they can assist their own children to learn
- e) Assistance to develop parental involvement in educational advocacy through PTAs and other organizations, including school system task forces and advisory committees

3. While each division, office, and school must assess its role and plan of action to meet these goals, all MCPS employees are expected to convey a commitment to parental involvement.

- a) Consistent with this commitment, local schools are expected to:
 - 1) Provide an inviting and welcoming environment where parent involvement is respected and valued
 - 2) Develop activities and materials that provide for effective two-way communication between parents and the school on local school policies and practices and individual student progress
 - 3) Support and encourage parental volunteer opportunities including participation in the development of school improvement plans

- 4) Provide programs that assist parents in learning how they can help children learn, including activities that are connected to what children are learning in the classroom
 - 5) Work with PTA, other parent organizations, and parent outreach personnel to ensure parental input from a broad range of culturally and linguistically diverse groups
- b) Consistent with this commitment, local schools are encouraged, in collaboration with their parent community, to develop a local school statement which articulates a shared responsibility and strategies to support: student learning and high achievement; effective, frequent, two-way communication between school and home; and family, school, community partnerships aligned with school improvement plan goals
4. In addition, appropriate staff in central offices are expected to support local school efforts and, where relevant:
- a) Communicate with parents on school system policies and regulations
 - b) Provide for the development of parenting programs and materials, including the use of cable television, pamphlets, adult education courses, parent resource centers, and programs designed to orient new parents to MCPS
 - c) Support and encourage the use of interpretation and translation services whenever feasible
 - d) Maintain and support parental volunteer opportunities with appropriate information and training
 - e) Assist in the development of parental leadership through PTAs and other recognized groups
 - f) Work with businesses, organizations, and other government agencies which by their policies and activities can provide support and assistance for parental involvement efforts

- g) Provide appropriate teacher and staff training to support effective parental involvement; conduct staff and parent training in ways to communicate and work together including problem solving, conflict resolution skills, and outreach strategies
- h) Identify and publicize promising programs and practices related to parental involvement
- i) Work with colleges and universities that prepare teachers and administrators to support the inclusion of school and family connections in their training programs
- j) Develop methods to accommodate and support parental involvement for all parents, including those with special needs, limited English proficiency, limited financial resources and individuals with disabilities
- k) Develop mechanisms for local schools to use in order to assess the effectiveness of their parental involvement efforts

D. DESIRED OUTCOME

Schools and families will work together to ensure that the educational process includes quality learning at home, in school, and in the community.

E. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

1. The superintendent will assess the status of parental involvement, review existing policies and procedures, and develop necessary regulations and procedures to support this policy, including a review of staff and budget support.
2. The Board of Education will seek parental input on school system policies, including curriculum, facilities, and funding issues from a broad spectrum of our culturally and linguistically diverse community.

F. REVIEW AND REPORTING

This policy will be reviewed on an ongoing basis in accordance with the Board of Education policy review process.

Policy History: Adopted by Resolution No. 669-90, November 13, 1990; reformatted September 1996; amended by Resolution 489-02, October 28, 2002.