

PARENT/FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

- A. The Lafayette Parish School System is committed to developing functional members of society and through collaborative efforts among stakeholders, provides a quality education for all students. The school district recognizes the valuable role the family plays in a child's successful progress through school. Parental and family involvement in school activities is an important factor in student achievement. Schools with strong parental/ family involvement have students that achieve higher scores on standardized and performance based assessment tests. This school district encourages and highly values parental/family involvement.
- a. We Believe when parents are involved students achieve more, regardless of socio-economic status, ethnic/ racial background, or the parent's educational level.
 - b. We Believe that the foundation for all forms of parental involvement is communication between the home and school.
 - c. We Believe when parents receive frequent and effective communication from the school, their involvement increases and parents and students have a more positive attitude toward the school.
 - d. We Believe when parents are treated as partners and given relevant information, parents put those strategies into practice.
 - e. We Believe schools should involve parents in the decision-making process of their children's education.
 - f. We Believe schools where parents are involved have more support from and a better reputation in the community.
- B. Lafayette Parish School System will promote and support family involvement through incorporating six types of parental involvement:
- a. Parenting:
 1. Schools show respect for the diversity of all families, backgrounds, ethnicity, cultures, and traditions.
 2. Schools support, respect and affirm the strengths and skills needed by parents.
 3. Schools provide training, information, and access to resources to families about parenting.
 4. All schools staff demonstrates respect for families and the family's role in the rearing of children.
 5. Schools inform parents of available resources for literacy training.

- b. Communicating:
 - 1. Parents-School Compacts to strengthen communication are developed jointly with parents are reviewed and revised annually.
 - 2. Schools provide clear information to parents regarding grade/course expectations, student placement, school activities, students' services, optimal programs, and extra curricular offerings.
 - 3. Schools provide training and inform to parents on state content standards, standardized test and district's promotional policy and description.
 - 4. Schools use a variety of communication technique to facilitate two-way communication between school and family.
 - 5. Schools translate written and oral communication to assist non-English-speaking families.
 - 6. Schools regularly communicate to parent's positive student achievement and behavior.

- c. Volunteering:
 - 1. Schools ensure that volunteer activities are meaningful and provide a consistent process for volunteers to sign in and record hours.
 - 2. Schools survey parents regarding their interests, talents, and availability and coordinate parent resources within the school and among the family.
 - 3. Schools ensure that parents unable to volunteer in the school building are given options for helping in other ways.
 - 4. Schools show appreciation for parent's participation and value their diverse contributions.

- d. Learning at Home:
 - 1. Schools provide training to assist parents in understanding how they can foster learning at home.
 - 2. Schools provide opportunities for parents to learn classroom strategies used in the school with students.
 - 3. Schools assign interactive homework that will require students to discuss and interact with parents about lessons they are learning in the classroom.

- e. Decision Making:
 - 1. Schools solicit and encourage parental participation in decision-making that affects students.
 - 2. Schools form and support parent groups such as PTA, PTO, and PTC to identify and respond to issues of interests to parents.
 - 3. Schools provide understandable information about processes for parents to influence decisions, raise issues or concerns, appeal decisions and resolve problems.

- f. Collaborating with the Community:

1. Schools and Parents disseminate information to the school community regarding school program and performance.
2. Schools develop partnerships with local business and service groups to advance student learning and assist schools and families.
3. Schools collaborate with community agencies to provide family support services and adult learning opportunities.

Adopted: 10/16/ 96

Revised: 7/6/05