

PARENT/FAMILY/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Statement

The Board of Education believes that a student's education is a responsibility shared by the school, parents or guardian, family members, other significant adults in the child's life, and the community who must work together as knowledgeable partners to educate all students up to their capacity. Build capacity of families to support their children's learning & actively engage as partners in child's education.

The parent/family/community involvement in the Manchester Public Schools will be guided by the following standards:

- Communication between home and school is on-going; two-way, multi-platformed and meaningful, to the greatest extent possible in the language predominantly spoken at home.
- Parents are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance are sought.
- Parents play an integral role in helping student learning.
- Parents are partners in the decisions that affect children and families.

Manchester Public Schools staff will:

- Access the strengths, resources, and assets of families and community members to support school success.
- Work to develop trust and collaboration among all stakeholders.
- Value and support families and communities as a vital component of educating all children.
- Work to reduce the impact of barriers on families and community members to support school success.

The Board of Education supports professional development opportunities for staff members to enhance their understanding of effective parent/family/community partnership strategies. The Board also recognizes the importance of administrative leadership in creating conditions conducive to parental, family, and community involvement in the schools.

The Superintendent of Schools is responsible for instituting administrative guidelines to support this policy.

Legal References : C.G.S. 10-221(f), P.A. 97-290 20 U.S.C §6316, P.L. 107-110 NCLB

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PARENT/FAMILY/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
Administrative Guidelines

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In order to achieve the level of parent/family/community partnership desired by the Board of Education, the following guidelines exist to promote the partnership of parents/families/community members in the schools on behalf of all children enrolled in the Manchester Public Schools.

1. Parent involvement activities developed at each school will include opportunities for:

Volunteering;

- Parent/Family education and leadership;
- Home support for student learning;
- Ongoing two-way and meaningful communication;
- Parent/Family voice and participation in school decision-making; and
- Use of community resources to strengthen schools, families, and student learning.

2. It is the responsibility of the school administration and staff to:

- Actively seek to build coalitions across constituencies in each neighborhood and across the district in the service of young people;
- Develop advisory teams of parents/families, support staff, and school personnel to regularly review and plan for support of children and families;
- Develop and implement a school plan for parent/family/community involvement;
- Effectively and actively communicate with parents/families/community about the curriculum and seek suggestions about improving the curriculum;
- Provide space and resources to support successful parent/family/community involvement practices and activities;
- Provide professional development for teachers and staff on ways to work effectively in partnership with parents/families/community members;
- Provide parents / families with tools and supports needed to enhance student learning
- Promote clear on-going two-way communication between school and family about school issues, the curriculum, and student progress;
- Include parents/families in decision-making on appropriate school issues and programs;
- Provide training for school volunteers to work within the schools;
- Assist parents in understanding their roles as partners in educating their children that would include:
 1. Actively communicating with teachers and administrator;
 2. Being aware of and following the rules and regulations of the school;
 3. Taking an active role in the student's education by reinforcing at home the skills and knowledge the student has learned in school;
 4. Participating in school activities;
 5. Working for the success and improvement of the school program; and
 6. Advocating for student needs

3. Periodically, the Board of Education and the district administration may invite parents/families/community members to participate on committees related to curriculum, budget, personnel selection, policy development, and other areas.

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