

PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION

The Board recognizes that a student's education is a responsibility shared by the school, the student, and the family. Research indicates that involvement of parents in support of the children's education increases student achievement. The school and parents must work as partners if the school system is to meet its goal of educating students effectively.

It is the intent of the Board that the schools promote parent involvement by:

- A. Supporting meaningful two-way communication between school and home;
- B. Promoting responsible parenting;
- C. Encouraging parents to play an integral role in assisting student learning;
- D. Assisting parents in their efforts to support, reinforce, and extend their children's learning;
- E. Providing opportunities for parent input in school programs and curriculum;
- F. Respecting parents as partners in decisions affecting children and families;
- G. Welcoming parents as visitors to the school;
- H. Engaging in meaningful parent-teacher conferences to discuss student progress toward meeting the content standards of the system of Learning Results and other learning goals, individual instructional needs and student welfare issues;
- I. Communicating with parents about school system policies and regulations;
- J. Encouraging parents to volunteer in the school and school-related activities;
- K. Encouraging parent involvement through PTO groups and Board and school advisory committees;
- L. Supporting appropriate professional development opportunities that enable staff members to increase the effectiveness of parent involvement strategies;

- M. Encouraging school administrators to set expectations and create a climate conducive to parent participation;
- N. Developing methods to accommodate and support parental involvement for parents with special needs, such as limited English proficiency; and
- O. Assessing the effectiveness of parent involvement efforts.

The Board expects parents to:

- A. Make every effort to provide for the physical well-being of their children;
- B. Establish a home environment that supports learning and appropriate behavior;
- C. Strive to prepare the student emotionally and socially so that the student is receptive to learning, discipline, and behavioral expectations;
- D. Have students attend school regularly and on time;
- E. Help students to develop good study habits;
- F. Monitor their student's learning progress;
- G. See that their child participates in remedial activities and/or additional instruction, as recommended, to provide them with the opportunity to progress toward meeting the content standards of the system of Learning Results and other instructional goals and objectives;
- H. Review their children's homework and reinforce reading, math, and other skills;
- I. Become familiar with school rules and procedures;
- J. Discuss problems and concerns with appropriate persons;
- K. Participate in conferences with teachers and other professional staff;
- L. Cooperate with the school system to develop a positive self-concept and positive outlook on learning for each child;

- M. When practicable, volunteer in the school and/or support school activities;
- N. When practicable, participate in PTO groups, advisory committees and other opportunities to support student learning; and
- O. Provide feedback concerning the effectiveness of the schools' parent involvement efforts.

Cross Reference: KBF - Parent Involvement in Title I

Adopted: December 7, 2015

PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN TITLE I

The Board endorses the parent involvement goals of Title I and encourages the regular participation by parents/guardians in all aspects of the school system's Title I programs.

For the purpose of this policy, "parents/guardians" includes other family members involved in supervising the child's schooling.

I. DISTRICT-LEVEL PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

In compliance with federal law, RSU 29 will develop, and agree upon a written district-level parent involvement policy to distribute to parents of children participating in the school system's Title I programs.

Annually, parents/guardians will have opportunities to participate in the evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the school unit's parent involvement policy and in using the findings of the evaluation to design strategies for more effective parent involvement and to make revisions to the policy.

II. SCHOOL-PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

As required by law, each school in the school unit that receives Title I funds shall jointly develop with parents/guardians of children served in the program a school parent/guardian involvement policy, including "School-Parent Compact" outlining the manner in which parents, school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement in meeting State standards. The school policy will be distributed to parents/guardians of children participating in the school's Title I programs.

The "School-Parent Compact" shall:

- A. Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment enabling children in the Title I program to meet the State's academic achievement standards;
- B. Indicate the ways in which parents will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, monitoring television watching, volunteering in the classroom, and participating, as appropriate, in decisions related to their children's education and positive use of extra-curricular time; and

- C. Address the importance of parent-teacher communication on an ongoing basis with at minimum, parent-teacher conferences, frequent reports to parents, and reasonable access to staff.

III. PARENT INVOLVEMENT MEETINGS

Each school receiving Title I funds shall convene an annual meeting to which all parents/guardians of eligible children shall be invited to inform them about the school's participation in Title I and to involve them in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's Title I programs and the parent involvement policy.

In addition to the required annual meeting, at least two other meetings shall be held during the school year at various times of the day and/or evenings for parents/guardians of students participating in Title I programs.

These meetings shall be used to provide parents with:

- A. Information about programs the school provides under Title I;
- B. A description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency level students are expected to meet;
- C. Opportunities to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children; and
- D. The opportunity to submit comments to the district level if they are dissatisfied with the school-wide Title I program.

Title I funding, if sufficient, may be used to facilitate parent/guardian attendance at meetings through the payment of transportation and childcare costs.

IV. PARENT RELATIONS

Parents/guardians of children identified for participation in a Title I program shall receive from the building principal and Title I staff an explanation of the reasons supporting their child's selection, a set of objectives to be addressed, and a description of the services to be provided. Parents will receive regular reports on their child's progress and be provided opportunities to meet with the classroom and Title I teachers. Parents will also receive training, materials, and suggestions as to how they can assist in the education of their children at home.

V. DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Superintendent/designee shall be responsible for ensuring that the school unit's Title I plan, programs, and parent involvement policies comply with applicable law and regulations and for developing administrative procedures, as needed, to implement this policy.

Legal References: 20 U.S.C. § 6318

Adopted: February 2, 2004

Revised: December 7, 2015

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING

The Board believes that community participation in the schools is essential to maintain mutual confidence and respect and to improve the quality of education for all students.

Community participation is important both at the Board and school levels. The Board shall seek to involve the community through established policies governing public participation at Board meetings, advisory committees and other appropriate means. Building administrators are encouraged to establish methods to involve the community in decision-making processes that are consistent with Board policies.

The Board is ultimately responsible for the formulation of policies involving the curriculum instruction and the overall school program. The Board reserves the right to make the final decision regarding any such policies, while taking into account the views and suggestions from community members and others.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA § 1001 et seq.

Cross Reference: BEDH – Public Participation at Board Meetings

Adopted: December 6, 1999

Revised: December 7, 2015

PUBLIC GIFTS/DONATIONS TO THE SCHOOL

The Board may accept, on behalf of RSU 29, any bequest or gift of money or property for a purpose deemed suitable by the Board in accordance with state law. All gifts shall be accepted in the name of RSU 29 and become the property of the school unit, but may be designated for use in a particular school or a particular department. The Superintendent will notify the board of the gifts/donations received and thank the donors in writing on behalf of the board.

Only items of legitimate use in the school program shall be accepted. The Board is under no obligation to replace a gift if it is destroyed, lost, stolen or becomes worn out. Gifts will not be accepted if they involve an excessive cost for maintenance or installation. If installation is required, the gift shall be installed under the supervision of school unit personnel. The Board will notify in writing prospective donors if their gift cannot be accepted.

The Superintendent shall implement any administrative procedures necessary to carry out this policy.

Legal Reference: 20-A M RSA §§ 1256, 4005

Adopted: December 7, 2015

PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM

Public support for the school depends upon informed public opinion. RSU 29 will strive to maintain effective communications with the public in order to convey accurate information about the goals, programs, needs, and accomplishments of the schools and to provide ways for citizens to express their opinions and expectations.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining a public communications program that will provide for the dissemination of school unit reports and plans, information concerning student achievement, relevant statistics, noteworthy facts, issues affecting education, use of school facilities, news of the schools, school events, and student and staff accomplishments.

The Board encourages the Superintendent and school unit employees to whom communication responsibilities have been delegated to use a variety of methods for providing information to the public, such as the school system's website, letters, newsletters, publications, news releases, news media coverage of Board meetings and school-related events, meetings, and personal contacts.

All communications with the public shall appropriately respect the confidentiality of students and staff.

The building principal and/or program directors will be responsible for program and other routine school announcements to parents and students. The Superintendent shall be responsible for establishing guidelines for communications with the media and to the public. Such guidelines shall address confidentiality as well as authority to approve and/or release communications, content, and contact with media representatives.

Community opinion may be solicited through parent organizations, parent-teacher conferences, open houses, and other events or activities that bring staff and parents or other community members together. The Board and/or Superintendent may develop and disseminate surveys and questionnaires to obtain information and to allow parents and citizens served by the school unit to express their opinions.

Legal Reference: 20 USC §§ 6311, 6314-6316, 6319
Ch. 125 § 4.04 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule)

Cross Reference: AEC – Accomplishment Reporting to the Public
JRA – Student Educational Records
KDD – Media Relations

Adopted: December 5, 2004

Revised: December 7, 2015