

Family, School and Community Partnerships Policy

Douglas County School District recognizes that parents, caregivers, and families are their children's first and most influential teachers. Continued parental involvement in the education of students contributes greatly to achievement, and to a positive school environment and experience. In this policy, the word "parent" also includes guardians and other members of a student's family involved in the student's education.

The responsibility for a child's education is shared by the school and family during the time the child spends in school. To support the goal of the school district to provide a high-quality education to all students, staff, and parents, these stakeholders must work together as partners.

To this end, the Board of Education supports the development, implementation and regular evaluation of parental involvement in each school, and at the district level, that will involve parents at all grade levels in a variety of roles. The family, school, and community partnerships program will be comprehensive and coordinated, and will include as a guide the six standards of family, school, and community partnerships outlined by the National Parent Teacher Association:

1. Effective two-way communication between the home and school personnel;
2. A welcoming environment for all families;
3. A full partnership between families and schools in the decisions that affect students;
4. Enhanced family partnerships to support student learning at home;
5. Developing lasting partnerships between schools, families, businesses and the community;
6. Increased community and district resources aimed at strengthening families, schools, and community partnerships.

Moreover, the School District will ensure accountability of all staff in working with families as academic partners and establish avenues of two-way communication in order to keep families informed and to promote transparency and build trust. The School District will also inform parents of school choices within the district, including but not limited to, information on open enrollment, choice programs, and charter school options.

Additionally, school district personnel should provide opportunities for parents to be informed about their student's progress toward attaining proficiency on state and district content standards through written materials and public meetings. Information shall explain how the student's progress will be measured, and how parents will be informed of such progress. This information shall also be provided to the building level and district accountability committees.

The School District will also support professional development opportunities for staff members to enhance understanding of effective family, school, and community partnership strategies. The School District also recognizes the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to family, school, and community partnerships.

In collaboration with the District Accountability Committee, the Board and DCSD staff will commit to providing district and community resources to support the efforts of schools to reach out to parents as equal partners.

DCSD Board members, committee members, and school district employees will recognize the value of contributions of parents and community members toward the goal of building a strong connection between DCSD families, schools, and the larger Douglas County community, in order to promote and strengthen the academic success of students.

LEGAL REFS.:

C. R. S. 22-7-101 through 22-7-107 (Educational Accountability Act of 1971) (local accountability programs)

C.R.S. 22-7-301 (measures to increase parental involvement in education) C.R.S. 22-7-407 (5) (informing parents about standards-based education)

C.R.S. 22-11-201 (4)(b)(l) (accreditation contract must bind district to administer community involvement, including processes for parents)

C.R.S. 22-30.5-109 (publicity regarding educational options)

C.R.S. 8-13.3-101 et. seq. (leave for parental involvement in academic activities)

1 CCR 301-1, Rules 2202-R.2.01 (4)(j) (accreditation contract must include goals and processes for informing and involving parents, families, community and accountability committees)

20 U.S.C. §6301 et seq. (No Child Left Behind Act of 2001)

C.R.S. 22-32-142(1)(a)

22-7-304, 22-7-302(5)