

## **FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

The Board of Education, representing the community of the Kingston School District, believes that a child's education is a responsibility shared from pre-school through high school by the school and family. When schools strive to empower families and develop their connections, families can become powerful allies of the schools and advocates for public education, as well as their own children. To reach the goal of the School District to educate all students to their maximum potential, the schools and families must work in active partnership to support academic excellence and character development.

Furthermore, the Board recognizes that our community is diverse in culture, language, resources, and needs. "Families", for the purpose of this policy, refers to the persons in familial relation. This School District and the schools within its boundaries, in collaboration with families, will establish programs and practices that enhance family involvement and reflect the specific needs of all students and their families.

Consistent with the family involvement goals of Title I, Part A of the federal, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) the Board of Education will ensure the development and implementation of programs, activities and procedures that encourage and support the education of families of students eligible for Title I services in all aspects of their child's education. The Board also will ensure that all of its schools receiving Title I, Part A funds develop and implement school level familial involvement procedures, as further required by federal law.

To this end, the Board supports the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of family involvement opportunities in all schools. An action plan for family/community involvement will be included in the district's and each school's Improvement Plan. The School and District Leadership Teams include families as active team participants who provide equal input to the development of the Improvement Plans.

Family involvement and engagement programs should include, but not be limited to, the following components for success:

- a) Families are full partners in their child's education and may be included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.
- b) Communication in all forms between home and school is consistent, timely, meaningful, and nurtures a trusting and respectful relationship.
- c) Families are welcome in the school (in accordance with policies #1250 School Volunteers and #1300 Visitors to the Schools), and their support and assistance is sought.
- d) Families play an integral role in assisting student learning. Training and materials are provided to assist families with their children's achievement.
- e) Community partnerships are a key component of this policy, and toward this end: The district will build relationships with local businesses, local government, health care, social service and civic and community organizations, in order to share resources and strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning.
- f) Family engagement activities will be provided to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
- g) Understanding of state standards, assessments and their child's progress.

Since family involvement and community partnerships are essential in improving student achievement, the district will provide the coordination and technical assistance in planning and implementing effective family involvement activities.

The Board, along with the Superintendent of Schools and other appropriate staff, will conduct, with the involvement of families, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this familial involvement policy in improving the academic quality of Title I schools, including the identification of barriers to greater participation by families in activities particularly in identified subgroups, under this policy and its regulations, and the revision of family involvement policies necessary for evidence-based strategies for more effective engagement/involvement.

All Title I Schools will also:

- Convene an annual meeting at a convenient time, to which all families of participating children will be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform families of their school's participation under Title I (ESSA) and to explain the requirements and the right of the families to be involved;
- Offer a flexible number of familial involvement conferences, meetings and programs;
- Involve families in an organized, ongoing, and timely way with the planning, review, and improvement of programs;
- Provide program information and 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 levels students are expected to meet;
- Provide families opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class to observe classroom activities;
- Outline in the school handbook both family and student responsibilities that will support learning.

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**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Revision: 11/20/13, 01/07/15**

**Adoption Date: 12/04/13, 01/21/15**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Revision: 10/10/18 Adoption Date: 10/31/18**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading and Adoption of Revision: 08/09/23**