

POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Related Entries: ABA, ABA-RA, ABC-RA, ACG, BFA, BMA, FAA, IEA, IEB, IED, IFB, IGP-RA, IRB-RA

Responsible Office: Communications and Family Outreach

Parent and Family Involvement

A. PURPOSE

1. The Board of Education (Board) is committed to promoting meaningful family-school partnerships as an essential component to students' academic success.
2. The Board encourages parent and family involvement in the school community to support children's education, healthy development, and well-being. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) will take actions to promote family involvement efforts that encompass the diversity of the community.

B. ISSUE

Research indicates that family involvement in education has a positive effect on student learning and healthy development and is an important strategy in reducing achievement gaps.

Additionally, meaningful and effective home-school partnerships help to ensure a safe and respectful learning environment.

C. POSITION

1. The Board supports the development of parent and family involvement programs and services that are comprehensive and linked to student learning and based on, but not limited to, the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships:
 - a) Welcoming all families into the school community—families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.
 - b) Communicating effectively—families and school staff engage in regular, meaningful two-way communication about student learning.

- c) Supporting student success—families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students’ learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.
 - d) Speaking up for children—families are empowered to advocate for their children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.
 - e) Sharing power—families and school staff are important and valued partners with unique information regarding decisions that affect children. Families and school staff together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs including full engagement in the school improvement process.
 - f) Collaborating with community—families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.
2. All MCPS employees are expected to promote and demonstrate a commitment to parent and family involvement.

D. DESIRED OUTCOME

All MCPS staff will collaborate with families to build strong family-school partnerships.

E. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- 1. The superintendent of schools will review existing policies and procedures, and develop necessary regulations and procedures to support this policy.
- 2. The superintendent of schools and the Board of Education will monitor the milestones and data points associated with Goal 3: Strengthen Productive Partnerships for Education in the MCPS Strategic Plan.
- 3. The Board provides opportunities for parents and other members of the public to provide feedback through public comments at Board meetings, written and e-mail correspondence, service on advisory committees, and participation in public hearings and community forums. Feedback from a broad spectrum of our diverse community is integral to the processes of developing and revising school system policies, strategic planning, budget development, and implementation of school district initiatives.

F. REVIEW AND REPORTING

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Board of Education policy review process.

Policy History: Adopted by Resolution No. 669-90, November 13, 1990; reformatted September 1996; amended by Resolution 489-02, October 28, 2002, amended by Resolution 417-10, July 26, 2010.