

CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY

P-1140

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The Clark County School District recognizes that parent/family involvement is essential as we partner to educate District students to prepare them for lifelong learning. The term “parent” refers to any caregiver who assumes responsibility for nurturing and caring for children, and includes parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, foster parents, stepparents, and others.

Parents and families provide the primary educational environment for children; consequently, parents are vital and necessary partners with the educational communities throughout their children’s school careers. Although parents come to the schools with diverse cultural backgrounds, primary languages, and needs, universally, all parents want what is best for their children. School districts and schools, in collaboration with parents, teachers, students, and administrators, must establish and develop efforts to enhance parent involvement and reflect the needs of students, parents, and families in the communities, which they serve.

- I. The District will be governed by the following statutory definition of parent involvement and expects that all schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parent involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, ensuring:

- A. Parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning.
- B. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school.
- C. Parents are full partners in their child’s education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.
- D. The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1118 of the Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

II. The District will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I programs, consistent with Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

A. The Clark County School District agrees to implement the following federal and state statutory requirements:

1. Consistent with Section 1118 of the ESEA, CCSD will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent involvement policies meet the requirements of Section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, an Educational Student Accord consistent with Section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
2. CCSD will incorporate this Districtwide Parent Involvement Policy into its Local Educational Agency (LEA) plan developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA.
3. If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of the participating children, the CCSD will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the Nevada State Department of Education.

B. In accordance with NRS 392.475 and in order to enhance parent involvement, seven essential elements for parent involvement shall be promoted:

1. Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful: Effective communication requires school-initiated contact with the parent and parent-initiated contact with the school where both parties provide vital information about a child's strengths, challenges, and accomplishments. To communicate effectively, both parties must be aware of issues such as cultural diversity and language differences, and appropriate steps must be taken to allow clear communication for all participants.

2. Responsible parenting is promoted and supported: The family plays a primary role in a child's education, and schools must respect and honor traditions and activities unique to a community's cultural practices and beliefs. Parents are linked to programs and resources within the community that provide support services to families.
3. Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning: Educators recognize and acknowledge parents' roles as the integral and primary facilitator of their children's education. Research demonstrates that student achievement increases when parents are actively involved in the learning process.
4. Schools are open and inviting to parents and families and are actively seeking parental support and assistance for school programs: Parents are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance are sought. Capitalizing on the expertise and skills of the parents strengthens the family, school, and community partnership.
5. Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families: Parents and educators have a joint responsibility to make informed decisions related to all aspects of the education provided to Nevada's youth. The role of parents in shared decision-making should be continually evaluated, refined, and expanded.
6. Community resources are made available to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning: Schools and parents will cultivate relationships with additional members of the community in order to promote and effectively increase educational opportunities for children. Together, parents, educators, and community members will join efforts toward identifying and promoting community resources and innovative programs for strengthening schools, families, and student learning.
7. The Instruction Unit shall be responsible for the development of procedures for distribution, collection, and maintenance of the Educational Involvement Accord and the Nevada Code of Honor

for students, as prescribed in NRS 392. The Educational Involvement Accord and the Nevada Code of Honor for students must be provided to each student in all schools at the beginning of each school year or upon the student's enrollment in CCSD.

- a. The Nevada Code of Honor for students relates to cheating as prescribed pursuant to Section 17.5 of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, and was adopted by the State Board pursuant to NRS 392. Cheating or academic dishonesty involves the improper taking of information from and/or giving of information to another student, individual, or other source. These terms are further defined in the Nevada Code of Honor pursuant to NRS 392.
- b. The Communications Office of the Clark County School District shall be responsible for posting the Educational Involvement Accord on the Clark County School District Web site and in its annual publications, including back-to-school information.

C. Each school principal or administrative designee will:

1. Post the Educational Involvement Accord in the school newsletter and on the school's Web site at the beginning of each school year.
2. Ensure that the appropriate classroom teacher distributes the Educational Involvement Accord to the parent or legal guardian of each pupil at the beginning of the school year or upon a pupil's enrollment.
3. Ensure that the appropriate classroom teacher provides the parent or legal guardian with a reasonable opportunity to sign the Educational Involvement Accord and return it to the school.
4. Provide the Educational Involvement Accord to the parent or legal guardian of a pupil upon request.
5. Ensure that copies of the Nevada Code of Honor are available for

inspection at the school in an area on the grounds of the school that is open to the public.

D. The Board of Trustees shall:

1. Ensure that the form prescribed by the State of Nevada Department of Education is used for the Educational Involvement Accord in each school in the Clark County School District.
2. Ensure that the Educational Involvement Accord is accompanied by the materials prescribed by NRS 392.
3. At least once a year, review and amend the Educational Involvement Accord, as applicable.

III. The Clark County School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its Districtwide parent involvement plan under Section 1112 of the ESEA:

- A. Involve parent representatives from the Clark County Parent Teacher Association, Districtwide Parent Engagement Forum, and region Parent Advisory Councils in the development and writing of the Districtwide parent involvement plan.
- B. Provide broad representation for the Districtwide Parent Engagement Forum to include parents of elementary, middle, high school, pre-kindergarten, and special needs students.
- C. Invite two parents from each Title I school to become members of the District Parent Advisory Council. Input and feedback from this group may be utilized in developing the Districtwide parent involvement plan. The group shall meet three times annually.

IV. The Clark County School District shall take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under Section 1116 of the ESEA:

- A. The District shall support parents and families as advocates and partners for lifelong learning, and as decision-makers and active participants in school issues and programs.
 - B. The District shall undertake purposeful initiatives to involve parents and family members, wherever appropriate, in a variety of instructional and support roles both within as well as outside the schools.
 - C. The District shall assist parents, families, and guardians in acquiring techniques to support student learning and will develop tools to help establish those areas where support is needed.
 - D. The District shall undertake purposeful initiatives at the region level, including, but not limited to, the Title I program, to involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of school programs.
- V. The Clark County School District will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

The CCSD Title I Services Office will work with the Community and Government Relations Division, Parent Services Department to provide professional development to the Title I funded schools. Research-based programs and best practices shall be provided for both licensed and support staff.

- VI. The Clark County School District will coordinate and integrate parent involvement strategies. The District will continue to identify programs that engage parents at all levels of education, including, but not limited to, Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, and Virtual Pre-Kindergarten by the following actions:
- A. District offices and schools shall create and maintain a responsive and welcoming atmosphere for parents and families.
 - B. Schools will focus on defining what constitutes effective parent/family involvement for their individual community and how that involvement will positively impact student achievement.

- C. The Title I Services Office, in collaboration with the Student Support Services Division, shall establish measures to be employed to elicit minority and special needs representation/participation in the educational processes at all schools.
- VII. The Clark County School District shall take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent Involvement Policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation based on a parent survey will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parent involvement activities, with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. The District will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent involvement policy and activities to design more effective parent involvement and to revise, if necessary, and with the involvement of parents, its parent involvement policies.
- A. In the spring of each year, the Parent Involvement Policy will be submitted for review to a committee comprised of principals, central office staff, parent representatives from each region, and the District's parent services coordinator.
 - B. The committee will review the District Parent Involvement Policy for any needed revisions that may positively impact the partnership between CCSD schools and the parents of its students.
 - C. Annually, the District parent survey results will be used as baseline data for the established parent involvement participation goals for the next school year.
- VIII. The Clark County School District shall build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parent involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership between the school, parents, and the community to improve academic achievement, through the following activities described below:
- A. The District shall, as appropriate, assist parents in understanding topics such as: State academic content standards, State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments

including alternate assessments, requirements of Part A of Title I, how to monitor their child's progress, and how to work with educators through family literacy experiences, nonprofit organizations, tracking academic progress, and the District's school-home communication tools.

- B. The District shall, with the assistance of its schools, provide parents assistance, materials, and training to help them work with their child to improve academic achievement. Parent education shall be focused on reading/language arts, mathematics, writing, and technology. The Community and Government Relations Division, District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC), and Title I Parent Centers shall facilitate this process.
- C. The District shall, with the assistance of school staff and parents, educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff on how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, recognizing the value and utility of contributions of parents, and also to implement and coordinate parent programs and to build ties between parents and schools by:
 - 1. Providing professional development sessions for school clerical staff on making the front office welcoming and inviting to parents and community stakeholders.
 - 2. Providing training for licensed personnel on parent involvement.
- D. The District will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities are properly noticed and shared with parents. District notices shall be in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:
 - 1. The CCSD Web site shall be updated to contain timely parent information and community resource links.
 - 2. Traditional forms of communication will continue, such as flyers, school newsletters, and marquee announcements.
 - 3. Information shall be distributed to region Parent Advisory

Committees and the CCSD Board of Trustees' Parent Advisory Committees.

E. The Clark County School District believes that improved academic achievement is a responsibility shared by the entire school community, including, but not limited to, the administration, schools, community members, support staff, students, and parents. The District may choose, when practical, to undertake building capacity for involvement in the schools and school system and to undertake building support for student academic achievement through the following discretionary activities listed under Section 1118(e) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act:

1. Involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.
2. Providing necessary literacy training for parents.
3. Training parents to increase the involvement of other parents.
4. Maximizing parent involvement and participation in their child's education by arranging school meetings at a variety of times.
5. Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations in parent involvement activities.
6. Providing other reasonable support for parent involvement activities under Section 1118 as parents request.

Review Responsibility: Community and Government Relations

Adopted: [1140: 2/28/02]

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