

Family & Community Engagement

Meeting the Needs of All Learners

Our district recognizes family and community engagement is essential for academic achievement.

- When families and communities support their children's education, the attitudes, behaviors and achievement of students are positively enhanced.
- Families provide the primary educational environment for children; consequently, families are vital and necessary partners with education institutions to prepare students for lifelong learning.
- Our schools, working with families, teachers, students, community members, and administrators are encouraged to develop and promote strategies that enhance family and community engagement and reflect the needs of students in the 21st century.
- The term "family" refers to any caregiver who assumes responsibility for nurturing and caring for children, and includes parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, foster parents, stepparents and others.
- The term "community" refers to local business people, law enforcement, clergy, service organizations, emergency workers and others who share common attitudes and goals in preparing students to be college and career ready.

To enhance family - school partnerships - The essential elements are promoted and connected to the Board of Trustees policies and the superintendent's pledge:

- **Welcoming all families into the school network** – Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued and connected to each other, to the school staff and to what students are learning and doing in class and through extra-curricular activities, groups, or organizations.
- **Communicating with all effectively and regularly** – Families and school staff engage in meaningful verbal or written (virtual) dialogue or digital communications about student learning, accomplishments, and challenges both in and outside of the traditional classroom.
- **Supporting all student success** – Families play an integral role in school and at home in their child's learning. School staff is encouraged to provide opportunities for families to learn effective ways to support their child's educational needs including information about how to enhance learning at home, promoting effective study habits and monitoring their child's progress through student achievement data.
- **Speaking up for every child** – Families may advocate for children to ensure that all students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that support student achievement.
- **Sharing power** – Partnerships between families and school staff positively impact decisions when creating school policies, practices and programs. Schools are encouraged to actively enlist family participation in decision-making regarding their children. Efforts should be made to recruit and support participation by families representing diverse student groups.

Collaborating with community – While respecting cultural practices and traditions, families and school staff are encouraged to work with the community to enhance opportunities for learning, community services, and civic participation.

