**WELCH PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

The Welch Public School District recognizes that family engagement is essential for academic achievement. When parents and families support their children’s education, the attitudes, behaviors, and achievement of students are positively enhanced. Parents and families provide the primary educational environment for children; consequently, families are vital and necessary partners with educational communities to prepare students for lifelong learning. Welch Public Schools, in collaboration with parents, teachers, students, and administrators, are encouraged to develop and promote strategies that enhance family engagement and reflect the needs of students, parents, and families.

 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.

I. To enhance family-school partnerships

1. Welcoming all families:

Schools are expected to create an atmosphere that encourages parents and families to visit the school their children attend and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to the school community.

B. Communicating effectively:

1. Families and school staff should engage in regular, two-way, and meaningful

communication about student learning.

2. Effective communication involves both school-initiated contacts with the parent and parent-initiated contact with the school where vital information about a

child’s challenges and accomplishments can be shared.

 C. Supporting student success:

1. Parents, families, and schools are encouraged to collaborate to support learning and the healthy development of students at home and school.

2. Parents play an integral role in school and at home in their child’s learning. Schools are encouraged to provide opportunities for parents to learn effective ways to support their child’s educational needs including information about how to support learning at home, promoting effective study habits, and monitoring their child’s progress through student achievement data.

 D. Speaking up for every child:

 Parents and families may advocate for children to ensure that all students are treated

 fairly and have access to learning opportunities that support student achievement.

E. Sharing power:

1. Partnerships between parents, families, and schools positively impact decisions when creating school policies, practices, and programs. Schools are encouraged to actively enlist parent participation in decision-making regarding their children. Efforts shall be made to recruit and support participation by parents representing diverse student groups.

2. The role of parents in decision-making shall be continuously evaluated and refined at District and school levels.

F. Collaborating with community:

While respecting cultural practices and traditions, parents, families, and schools are encouraged to collaborate with the community to enhance opportunities for learning, community services, and civic participation.

II. Welch Public School District shall be responsible for the development of procedures for the distribution, collection, and maintenance of the Educational Involvement to each student in all schools at the beginning of each school year or upon the student’s enrollment.