

The School Board of Gadsden County

Bylaws & Policies

Unless a specific policy has been amended and the date of the policy was revised is noted at the bottom of that policy, the bylaws and policies of The School Board of Gadsden County were adopted on June 25, 2013, and were in effect beginning June 26, 2013.

2111 - PARENT AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN THE SCHOOL PROGRAM

The School Board recognizes and values parents and families as student's first teachers and decision-makers in education. The Board believes that student learning is more likely to occur when there is an effective partnership between the school and the student's parents and family. Such a partnership between the home and school and greater involvement of parents in the education of their students generally result in higher academic achievement, improved student behavior, and reduced absenteeism.

For purposes of this policy, the term "families" is used in order to include student's primary caregivers, who are not their biological parents, such as foster caregivers, grandparents, and other family members.

In cultivating partnerships with families and communities, the Board is committed to the following:

A. Relationships with Families

1. establishing school environments that are welcoming, supportive, and student-centered;
2. providing professional development for school staff that helps build partnerships between families and schools; ^{2,3}
3. providing family activities that relate to various cultures, languages, practices, and customs, and bridge economic and cultural barriers; ^{2,3}
4. providing coordination, technical support and other support to assist schools in planning and implementing family involvement activities. ³

B. Effective Communication

1. providing information to families to support the proper health, safety, and well-being of their students;
2. providing information to families about school policies, procedures, programs, and activities; ^{2,3}
3. promoting regular and open communication between school personnel and students' family members;
4. communicating with families in a format and language that is understandable, to the extent practicable; ^{2,3}
5. providing information that will enable families to encourage and support their students' academic progress, especially in the area of reading; ¹
6. providing information that will enable families to encourage and support their students' citizenship, especially social skills and respect for others; ¹

7. providing information that will enable families to encourage and support their students' realization of high expectations and setting life-long learning goals; ¹
8. providing information and involving families in monitoring student progress; ³
9. providing families with timely and meaningful information regarding Florida's Sunshine State Standards, State and local assessments, and pertinent legal provisions; ^{2,3}
10. preparing families to be involved in meaningful discussions and meetings with school staff. ^{2,3}

C. **Volunteer Opportunities**

1. providing volunteer opportunities for families to support their students' school activities; ^{1,3}
2. supporting other needs, such as transportation and student care, to enable families to participate in school-sponsored family involvement events. ³

D. **Learning at Home**

1. offering training and resources to help families learn strategies and skills to support at-home learning and success in school; ^{1,2,3}
2. working with families to establish learning goals and help their students accomplish these goals; ¹
3. helping families to provide a school and home environment that encourages learning and extends learning at home. ^{1,2}

E. **Involving Families in Decision Making and Advocacy**

1. involving families as partners in the process of school review and continuous improvement planning; ³
2. involving families in the development of its District-wide parent involvement policy and plan, and distributing the policy and plan to families. ^{2,3}

F. **Collaborating with the Community**

1. building constructive partnerships and connecting families with community-based programs and other community resources; ^{2,3}
2. coordinating and integrating family involvement programs and activities with District initiatives and community-based programs that encourage and support families' participation in their students' education, growth, and development. ^{2,3}

Implementation

The Superintendent will provide for a comprehensive plan to engage parents, families, and community members in a partnership that supports each student's academic achievement, the District's continuous improvement, and individual school improvement plans. The plan will provide for annual evaluation, with the involvement of parents and families, of the plan's effectiveness and

identification of barriers to participation by parents and families. Evaluation findings will be used in the annual review of the Parent and Family Involvement policy and to improve the effectiveness of the District plan.

Pursuant to State law, the Superintendent shall develop and annually disseminate a parent guide to successful student achievement, consistent with the guidelines of FLDOE, which address what parents need to know about the educational progress of their students and how parents can help their students achieve in school.

¹ Indicates Florida Statutory Requirements

² Indicates IDEA 2004 Section 650 & 644 parent involvement requirements

³ Indicates Title I Section 1118 parent involvement requirements

F.S. 1000.03, 1002.23

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