

SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING PARENT INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN

Nebo School District Board of Education recognizes that parental involvement is the key to student academic achievement. The term *parent* within this policy refers to a parent or legal guardian of the child. When parents are involved in their children's education, the attitudes, behaviors, and achievements of students are positively enhanced.

Parents and families provide the primary educational environment for children; consequently, parents are vital and necessary partners with the schools throughout their children's school career. Although parents come to the schools with diverse cultural backgrounds, primary languages, and needs, all parents want what is best for their children. Nebo School District, in collaboration with parents, teachers, students, and administrators shall develop and promote strategies that:

- **Build effective two-way communication between the home and school**

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 and address issues such as cultural diversity, language differences, and special needs. Appropriate steps shall be taken to allow clear communication between the schools and the parents. Schools shall follow other Board policies regarding the use of School Community Councils, Parent/Teacher, IEP, SEP, and SEOP Conferences to build open and effective communication with parents.

- **Support and encourage responsible parenting**

The family plays a key role in helping to create a child's educational environment. School personnel and program staff shall support positive parenting by respecting and affirming the strengths and skills needed by parents to fulfill their role. Parents shall be linked to programs and resources within the community that provide needed support services.

- **Strengthen the parent's role in the learning process**

Student achievement increases when parents are actively involved in the learning process. The District and/or schools shall therefore provide opportunities for parents to learn effective ways to support their child's educational needs including information about how parents can support student behaviors such as punctuality and regular attendance that are closely

tied to student success in school.

- **Invite and welcome parents as volunteers in the schools**

Parent volunteers are essential for advancing student achievement. Therefore, parents shall be welcome and invited to volunteer at all educational levels. Volunteer opportunities shall capitalize on the expertise, interests, and skills of the parents, and have direct connection to school and District goals. The District and/or schools shall provide training opportunities to enhance the instructional support skills of parents and others who volunteer to support student achievement in the classroom.

- **Consider parents as full partners in educational decisions that affect their children**

Parents and educators have a mutual responsibility to make informed decisions related to all aspects of their child's education. Schools shall actively enlist parent participation in decision-making. Further, efforts shall be made to recruit and support participation by parents representing diverse student groups such as: Limited English proficient, special needs, gifted and talented, and homeless. The role of parents in shared decision-making shall be continually evaluated, refined, and expanded at the District and school levels.

- **Enhance learning, strengthen families, and improve schools through school, parent, and community collaboration**

Providing all students with equal access to quality education is a primary goal. It is vital that all partners (parents, educators, businesses, and communities) have the opportunity to provide input and other resources to meet this goal. Developing cooperative efforts and sharing resources will enhance the educational opportunities and total development of all students.

Title I - Parent Involvement District Plan

In addition, Nebo School District will develop a plan to specifically involve the parents of children receiving services in schools within the District receiving Title I funds. This parent involvement plan shall:

- Be developed in collaboration with parents, teachers, and administrators in Title I programs.
- Involve parents, teachers, and administrators in the process of reviewing the implementation of the plan and making suggested improvements.

- Provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
- Provide strategies to build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement.
- Coordinate and integrate Title I parental involvement strategies with those of other educational programs.
- Provide, with the involvement of parents, for an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement procedures in improving the academic quality of the schools served, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by law, particularly by parents who are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. The District will use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement.
- Provide strategies to involve parents in the activities of the schools served by Title I programs.

Title I - Parent Involvement School Procedures

Further, each school within the district receiving Title I funds shall develop school-level procedures for encouraging and supporting parent involvement and participation in Title I sponsored activities and programs. These procedures shall be described and included as a part of each school's application to receive Title I funds.

The procedures for parental involvement shall be jointly developed with and distributed to parents of children participating in Title I programs. In accordance with federal law, these procedures:

- Must be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.
- Shall include a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility of improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children.
- Shall include a meeting scheduled annually to inform parents about Title I and to involve parents in the planning, review, and implementation of Title I

programs, including the planning, review, and implementation of the school parental involvement procedures.

Migrant Education Program Parental Involvement

Parents of students in the Migrant Education Programs shall be involved in and regularly consulted about the development, implementation, operation, and evaluation of the Migrant Program.

Parents of students in the Migrant Education Programs shall receive instruction regarding their role in improving the academic achievement of their children.

Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Parental Involvement

Pursuant to federal law, parents of LEP students shall be provided notification regarding their child's placement in and information about the District's LEP program.

Parents shall be notified of their rights regarding program content and participation.

NOTE: This policy, procedure, and plan may be prepared by the District and distributed, to the extent practicable, in a form and language appropriate to facilitate communication and understanding with parents where language issues may be a limiting factor in parent participation.

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