

District Parent/Family Involvement Policy
Rochester Public Schools Policies
Section: 100 - SCHOOL DISTRICT
Title: Parent and Family Involvement
Number: 104.03
Status: Active
Legal: Public Law 103-382, Section 1118
Adopted: 09/21/2004

Policy Detail:

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish definitions and procedures for parent and family involvement in the Rochester Public Schools.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The School Board supports and encourages active family involvement. The District supports the development, implementation, and evaluation of parent, family, and school partnerships District-wide. This includes all schools, programs and services. The District recognizes the diversity of family structures, circumstances, and cultural backgrounds.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. "Parent" applies to all individuals who have parental responsibility for the child.

B. "Family" includes all those who play an important role in the child's upbringing and well-being.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Definition of Standards of Family Involvement

Methods of involving families include the following nationally recognized standards for effective family involvement.

1. Families as Participants - Parents and families are welcomed in all buildings. Support and coordination is provided to school staff and parents to implement and sustain active participation and volunteer opportunities for families and the community.

2. Communication - Family and school communication is two-way, regular, meaningful and respectful of family diversity.

3. Parents as Teachers and Learners - Parent education and strategies are employed to enable families to participate actively in their children's development from birth through their school years.

4. School Decision Making - Involving families as partners in shared decision-making and advisory functions.

5. Collaborating with Community - Utilizing the school community to connect students and families with resources that provide educational enrichment, support, and promote connections between students, families, and the community at large.

6. Advocacy - Employers are encouraged to promote and support family participation in children's education.

B. Implementation Process

1. All buildings will implement this policy by submitting and evaluating parent involvement strategies as part of their site's annual continuous improvement plans.

2. Parents are to be involved in the development and implementation of the continuous improvement plan for family involvement.

3. Yearly review of the implementation and results of the Family Involvement Policy will occur as part of the District's continuous improvement process.

C. Staff Development

Training and guidance for the professionals charged with implementation of family involvement activities is recognized as one of the most significant factors in conducting an effective program.

1. District developed communication plan to publicize the Family Involvement Policy to staff, families, and the community.

2. Staff development on effective parent involvement strategies for District leadership on an annual basis.

3. Staff development opportunities for all staff members to enhance their understanding of the

research on parent involvement, standards for parent involvement, and effective parent involvement strategies.

4. A library of family involvement resource materials will be made available to staff and parents.

D. Leadership

1. The School Board recognizes the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to family participation.

2. Effective implementation of the Family Involvement Policy will require the involvement of all stakeholders with administrative leadership.