

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Purpose/Goal

Oklahoma City Public Schools, in a cooperative effort with parents, schools, and the community, shall work together as knowledgeable partners in educating children and fostering and supporting active parent involvement.

Inclusion Statement

We recognize the word "parent" also includes guardians and other family members involved in supervising the child's education. Programs and practices will be established to meet the diverse needs, languages, and cultures of students and parents. An environment of supportive, collaborative family involvement will be developed for the benefit of all children.

Elements of Effective Programs

Oklahoma City Public Schools supports the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of a parent involvement program at each of the district schools that includes parents at all grade levels in a variety of roles. Parent involvement programs will be coordinated and comprehensive in nature. Activities will include, but not be limited to, the following components of successful parent involvement programs based on the National PTA's Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs:

1. **Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful.** Effective home-school communication is the two-way sharing of meaningful information vital to student success. This two-way communication will occur in a variety of ways, such as: school visits, phone calls, parent conferences, report cards, and emails.
2. **Responsible parenting is promoted and supported.** Parents are a child's first, and continue to be the most important, teacher. Schools will work with community agencies to link parents to family support services and resources in the community.
3. **Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning.** Parents can be effective partners in helping to raise a student's academic achievement and self-esteem. Schools will develop positive relationships and enlist the support of parents to develop a strong support system to help ensure academic success for each student.
4. **Parents are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance are sought.** Parents are welcome into the school and classrooms. Parents have a right to access educational records and vital information concerning their child's strengths, challenges, and accomplishments. Capitalizing on the expertise and skills of the parents strengthens the family, school, and community.
5. **Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families.** We are committed to involving parents in the decision-making processes. We will actively seek and enlist parent participation on issues such as curriculum, discipline policies, and overall reform measures.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT (Cont.)

6. **Community resources are made available to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning.** Schools are a vital part of every community. When they work together, both are strengthened in every aspect: Families have access to resources; businesses partner with schools to create programs that connect to the workplace; intergenerational programs support young and old working together; and students serve and learn beyond their school environment.

Professional Development

The Oklahoma City Public Schools recognizes the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parent involvement. They are committed to providing professional development opportunities and training for parents and staff throughout the year to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies.

Commitment to Implementation

This policy will be made available at all schools, affecting parents and staff members throughout the district. Support will be provided to parents and teachers as they plan and implement effective parent involvement programs. Parents' input into the design and implementation of the district policy is vital. School planning processes will include:

1. A school/parent compact for teaching and learning.
2. Parent participation in campus improvement planning.
3. Dissemination of information related to school goals, academic content standards, and student progress measures on performance and assessments.
4. Implementation of proven strategies for engaging parents to support student learning.

Commitment to Evaluation

Oklahoma City Public Schools ensures that parents will participate in an evaluation of the content and effect of this policy on the success of students. The evaluation will be used to improve and/or create practices to enhance parent involvement in education. Schools and parents will be asked to provide feedback on this parent involvement policy annually.

REFERENCE: P. L. 107-110, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

CROSS-REFERENCE: Policy EHAA, Family Involvement
Student and Parent Handbook

***THIS POLICY REQUIRED BY THE
NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT.***