

Descriptor Term:
PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Descriptor Code:
1.3100/4.3100

Legal References: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g; No Child Left Behind Act, 20 U.S.C. 6318; 34 C.F.R. 200.37, -200.39; G.S. 90-21.1, 115C-47(47), -47(51), -81(e1), -307(c), -375.4; State Board of Education Policy FCB-A-000

Cross References:

This policy applies to the parents, legal guardians, and legal custodians of students who are under 18 years old and are not married. Unless otherwise stated in specific policies, references to "parents" also include persons acting in the place of parents, such as legal guardians or legal custodians.

The board recognizes the critical role of parents in the education of their children and their involvement in the schools. The board directs school administrators to develop programs that will promote and support parental involvement in student learning and achievement at school and at home and encourage successful progress toward graduation. Each parent is encouraged to learn about the educational program, the educational goals and objectives of the school system, and his/ her own child's progress. In order to encourage effective communication, the board also encourages parents to participate in activities designed by school personnel to involve them, such as parent conferences.

The board directs each principal or his/her designee to develop a parental involvement plan as part of the school improvement plan. This plan must include, at a minimum, the board directives provided herein. In addition, the plan must include ways to enhance parental involvement in the following areas:

1. meaningful two-way communication between home and school;
2. the promotion of responsible parenting;
3. the involvement parents in student learning;
4. the promotion of volunteering;
5. the involvement of parents in school decisions that affect children and families;
6. parental training;
7. community collaboration;
8. the promotion of student health services.

A. PARENT COMMUNICATION AND CONFERENCES

The board encourages regular contact with parents by school personnel for commendation as well as for notification of concerns. Principals or his/her designee shall plan for periodic communications with parents. Teachers are responsible for scheduling conferences with parents.

The principal or his/her designee is responsible for identifying students at each school who are at risk for academic failure. No later than the end of the first quarter or after the teacher has had up to nine weeks of instructional time with a student, a personal education plan for academic achievement shall be developed for each student at risk of academic failure who is not performing at least at grade level. The principal or his/her designee shall notify the student's parent that the student has a personal education plan and provide the parent with a copy of the plan.

The board encourages the superintendent to work with local business leaders, including the local chambers of commerce, to encourage employers to adopt as part of their stated personnel policies time for employees who are parents or guardians to attend conferences with their child's teachers.

B. TITLE I PARENT CONSULTATION POLICY

The Title I program offers assistance to meet special educational needs of educationally and economically disadvantaged children according to federal guidelines. In order to increase the effectiveness of the program and the success of the children, the board encourages parents to participate in the design and implementation of the programs and activities.

An annual meeting must be held for parents of all eligible Title I children to discuss the Title I-funded programs and activities. In addition to the annual meeting, the board encourages each parent to confer with their child's Title I teacher on a regular basis.

Each principal or his/her designee shall annually notify parents of limited English proficient children identified for participation in a Title I, Part A-funded language-instruction educational program of the following:

1. reasons for the identification;
2. level of the child's English proficiency;
3. methods of instruction;
4. an explanation of how the program will help the child;
5. if the child has a disability, an explanation of how the language instruction educational programs will meet the objectives of the child's individualized educational program (IEP); and
6. any other information necessary to effectively inform the parent about the program.

C. ANNUAL NOTIFICATION

Each principal or his/her designee shall effectively notify parents each year of the following:

1. parental rights related to student records (board policy 4.8000);
2. parental rights related to student surveys;
3. the approximate dates of any non-emergency, invasive physical examination that is: (a) required as a condition of attendance; (b) administered and scheduled in advance by the school administration; and (c) not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of students; and their right to opt his/her children out of any such examination;
4. the schedule of pesticide use on school property and his/her right to request notification of nonscheduled pesticide use;
5. the code of student conduct and school rules on conduct (board policy 4.3600);
6. the permissible use of seclusion and restraint in the schools;
7. the Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Complaint Procedure;
8. the Student and Parent Grievance Procedure (see board policy 4.3500);
9. the grading practices that will be followed at the school and, for the high schools, the means of computing the grade point averages that will be used for determining class rank;
10. a description of the curriculum being offered;
11. the performance standards of the board and school system (see board policy 3.7500);
12. a report containing aggregate information, including, but not limited to, student achievement (disaggregated by category), graduation rates, performance of the school system and teacher qualifications;

13. the right to request certain information concerning the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers and paraprofessionals providing services to the child;
14. whether the student has been assigned or has been taught for at least four consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not "highly qualified" as defined in the No Child Left Behind Act;
15. the results of the LEA's yearly progress review of each school;
16. an explanation of the students' transfer rights and other information required by 34 C.F.R. 200.37, if a Title I school is identified for improvement;
17. the availability of supplemental services in accordance with 34 C.F.R. 200.37, if a Title I school is identified for improvement and fails to make adequate yearly progress by the end of the first full year after being so identified;
18. sports and extracurricular activities available for students;
19. supportive services available to students, including guidance, counseling and health services (see board policies 4.4300, 4.4340 and 3.7500);
20. information about meningococcal meningitis and influenza, including the causes, the symptoms, the vaccines, the manner in which diseases are spread and places at which additional information and vaccinations may be obtained;
21. for students in grades five through twelve, information about cervical cancer, cervical dysplasia, and human papillomavirus, including the causes and symptoms of these diseases, the manner in which they are transmitted, the manner in which they may be prevented by vaccination, including the benefits and possible side effects of vaccination, and places parents and guardians may obtain additional information and vaccinations for their children;
22. the manner in which school officials in emergency situations during non-school hours may be reached;
23. the school's written parental policy regarding parents' rights to be involved in their child's school and opportunities for parents to be involved in the school;
24. information about and an application form for free and reduced price meals and/or free milk;
25. procedural safeguards for parents of children with disabilities;
26. information on the availability of the asbestos management plan and planned or in-progress inspections, re-inspections, response actions and post-response actions, including periodic re-inspection and surveillance activities;
27. that the school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age.

D. OPPORTUNITIES TO WITHHOLD CONSENT/OPT OUT

As a part of the annual notification described herein, parents shall be effectively notified through the Parent Handbook that consent may be withheld for or they may opt out of any of the following:

1. release of student directory information about his/her child for school purposes or to outside organizations (policy 4.8000);
2. student's participation in curricula related to (a) the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS); (b) the avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy; or (c) reproductive health and safety.

A copy of the materials that will be used in these curricula will be available in the school media center during the school year and other times that the media center is available to the public. In order to meet any review periods required by law, materials also may be made available for review in the central office.

3. student's participation in academic or career guidance or personal or social counseling services of a generic nature offered to groups of students (e.g., peer relations strategies)

offered to all sixth graders); provided, however, parental notification and permission are not required for (a) short-duration academic, career, personal or social guidance and counseling and crisis intervention that is needed to maintain order, discipline or a productive learning environment; (b) student-initiated individual or group counseling targeted at a student's specific concerns or needs; or (c) counseling if child abuse or neglect is suspected.

4. student's participation in non-Department of Education-funded surveys concerning protected topic.

Any parent or legal guardian wishing to opt out/withhold consent must do so in writing after receiving notice. Otherwise, consent to the programs or activities are presumed. After the annual notification, the school is not required to provide further notice to the parent as to the manner in which student directory information is used, the curriculum is provided, or the guidance programs are made available.

E. PARENTAL PERMISSION REQUIRED

Written parental permission is required prior to the following activities:

1. administration of medications to students by employees of the school system (see board policy 4.4340/6.125, Administering Medicines to Students);
2. any release of student records that are not considered directory information unless the release is allowed or required by law (see board policy 4.8000, Student Records);
3. off campus trips;
4. a student's participation in high impact or high risk sports or extracurricular activities, such as football or mountain climbing (see also board policy 4.4100, Student Insurance Program);
5. all decisions or actions as required by the IDEA with regard to providing special education or related services to children with disabilities;
6. certain health services, as required by law;
7. student's participation in programs or services providing information about the manner in which students may obtain contraceptives or abortion referral services;
8. student's participation in surveys funded by the Department of Education that are conducted concerning protected topics; and
10. disclosure of a student's free and reduced price lunch eligibility status.

F. WEBSITE NOTIFICATION

When a school is identified for Title I improvement, the school system will display on its website the following information in a timely manner to ensure that parents have current information regarding supplemental services and public school choice:

1. beginning with data from the 2007-2008 school year and for each subsequent school year, the number of students who were eligible for and the number of students who participated in public school choice;
2. for the current school year, a list of available schools to which students eligible to participate in public school choice may transfer;
3. beginning with data from the 2007-2008 school year and for each subsequent school year, the number of students who were eligible for and the number of students who participated in supplemental educational services; and
4. for the current school year, a list of supplemental educational services providers approved by the state to serve the school system and the locations where services are provided.

