

**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

The Board recognizes the critical role of parents in the education of their children and 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 district and his or her own child's progress. The Board also encourages parents to participate in activities designed by the schools to involve them, such as parent conferences, in order to encourage effective communication.

The Board directs each principal or designee to develop a parental involvement plan as a part of the school improvement plan. This plan must include, at a minimum, efforts that meet the requirements established in this policy. 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. promotion of responsible parenting;
3. involvement of parents and guardians in student learning;
4. promotion of volunteering;
5. involvement of parents and guardians in school decisions that affect children and families;
6. parental training;
7. community collaboration; and
8. promotion of student health awareness.

This policy applies to the parents, legal guardians and legal custodians of students who are under 18 years old and are not married. The policy also applies to parents, legal guardians and legal custodians of students who are served in the exceptional children program.

**A. PARENT COMMUNICATION AND CONFERENCES**

The Board encourages school personnel to have regular contact with parents for commendation as well as for notification of concerns. Principals or designees shall plan for periodic communications with parents. The school calendar will designate day(s) each year for parent-teacher conferences. Teachers are responsible for scheduling conferences with parents on parent-teacher conference day(s) and throughout the school year as needed.

The principal or designee is responsible for identifying students at each school who are at risk for academic failure and who are not successfully progressing toward grade promotion and graduation, beginning no later than the fourth grade. Additionally, 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 improvement, with focused intervention and performance benchmarks, shall be developed or updated for each student at risk of academic failure who is not performing at least at grade level, as more specifically set out in Policy 3420, Student Promotion and Accountability, and Administrative Procedure 3420-P. The principal or designee shall provide the student's parent with a copy of the student's personal education plan and include the parents in the implementation and ongoing review of the plan.

The principal or designee shall provide the parent of each student in kindergarten, first, or second grade with written notification of the student's reading progress. The notice will be provided three times a year, following each benchmark assessment and will include: (1) assessment results, (2) whether the child may not reach reading proficiency by the end of third grade; and (3) instructional support activities for use at home.

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 times for employees who are parents or guardians to attend conferences with their child's teachers.

## **B. PARENTAL NOTIFICATION**

Each principal or designee of a Title I school shall effectively notify parents of all parental rights and other required information regarding Title I schools and programs, in accordance with federal law.

Annually every building principal or designee shall effectively notify parents of the following:

1. parental rights related to student records (see policy 4700, Student Records);
2. parental rights related to student surveys (see policy 4720, Surveys of Students);
3. the approximate dates of any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening 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 (this does not apply to hearing, vision or scoliosis screenings or any physical exams or screenings permitted or required by state law);
4. the schedule of pesticide use on school property and their right to request notification of nonscheduled pesticide use (see policy 9205, Pest Management);
5. student behavior policies, the Code of Student Conduct and school standards and rules (see policies in the 4300 series);
6. the permissible use of seclusion and restraint in the schools (see administrative procedure 4302-P, Rules for Use of Seclusion, Restraint and Isolation in Schools and the Code of Student Conduct);
7. Policy 1720, Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Complaint Procedure;
8. policy 1740, Student and Parent Grievance Procedure;

9. grading practices that will be followed at the school and, in the high schools, the method of computing the grade point averages that will be used for determining class rank (see policies 3420, Student Promotion and Accountability and 3450, Class Rankings);
10. a description of the curriculum being offered (see policy 3100, Curriculum Development);
11. student performance standards (see policies in the 3400 series);
12. a report containing aggregate information, including, but not limited to, student achievement (disaggregated by category), graduation rates, performance of the school district and teacher qualifications;
13. the grade awarded to the school on the most recent annual report card issued for it by the State Board of Education if the school received a grade of D or F;
14. sports and extracurricular activities available for students (see policy 3620, Athletics and Extracurricular Activities);
15. supportive services available to students, including guidance, counseling, and health services (see policies 3540, Comprehensive Health Education Program and 3610, Counseling Program);
16. information about meningococcal meningitis and influenza, including the causes, symptoms, and vaccines, how the diseases are spread, and places where parents and guardians may obtain additional information and vaccinations for their children;
17. for parents of students in Grades 5 through 12, information about cervical cancer, cervical dysplasia, and human papillomavirus, including the causes and symptoms of these diseases, how they are transmitted, how 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;
18. information about and an application form for free and reduced price meals and/or free milk (see policy 6225, Free and Reduced Price Food Services);
19. information about the school breakfast program;
20. information about the availability and location of free summer food service program meals for students when school is not in session;
21. for parents of children with disabilities, procedural safeguards (see also policy 1730, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities);
22. 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;
23. education rights of homeless students (see policy 4125, Homeless Students);
24. the content and implementation of the local school wellness policy (see policy 6140, Student Wellness);
25. their right to take four hours of unpaid leave from their jobs every year in order to volunteer in their child's school as stated in G. S. 95-28.3 (see policy 5015, School Volunteers);
26. that the school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age (see policies 1710, Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying and 1730, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities);

27. that the school district provides equal access to its facilities, programs and activities to [the Boy Scouts and other] designated youth groups (see policy 1710, Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying); and
28. the availability of and the process for requesting a waiver or redirection of student fees (see policy 4600, Student Fees).

**C. OPPORTUNITIES TO WITHHOLD CONSENT/OPT OUT**

As a part of the annual notification described above, parents will be effectively notified that they may opt out of any of the following:

1. release of student directory information about their child for school purposes or to outside organizations (see policy 4700, Student Records, Board);
2. Release of their child's name, address and telephone listing to military recruiters or institutions of higher education (see policy 4700, Student Records);
3. their child's participation in curricula related to (a) prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS); (b) avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy; or (c) reproductive health and safety education, as provided in policy 3540. 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 at other times that the media center is available to the public. To meet any review periods required by law, materials also may be made available for review in the central office;
4. their child'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). (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; and (c) counseling if child abuse or neglect is suspected. (see policies 3610, Counseling Program and 4240, Child Abuse - Reports and Investigations);
5. their child's participation in non-Department of Education-funded surveys concerning protected topics (see policy 4720, Surveys of Students);
6. their child's participation in any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening 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;
7. the collection, disclosure or use of their child's personal information for marketing purposes (see policy 4720, Surveys of Students); and
8. release of their child's free and reduced-price meal information to State Medicaid or State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

Any parent or legal guardian who wishes to opt out/withhold consent must do so in writing after receiving notice. Otherwise, consent to the programs or activities is presumed. After the annual

notification, the school is not required to provide further notice to the parent or legal guardian as to the manner in which student directory information is used, the curriculum is provided, or guidance programs are made available.

#### **D. PARENTAL PERMISSION REQUIRED**

Written parental permission is required prior to the following activities:

1. the administration of medications to students by employees of the school district (see policy 6125, Administering Medicines to Students);
2. the release of student records that are not considered directory information unless the release is allowed or required by law (see policy 4700, Student Records);
3. off campus trips;
4. students' participation in high-impact or high-risk sports or extracurricular activities, such as football or mountain climbing (see policy 4220, Student Insurance Program);
5. all decisions or actions as required by the IDEA with regard to providing special education or related services to students with disabilities (see policy 3520, Special Education Programs/Rights of Disabled Students);
6. certain health services, as required by law;
7. students' participation in programs or services that provide information about where to obtain contraceptives or abortion referral services;
8. students' participation in surveys funded by the Department of Education that are conducted concerning protected topics (see policy 4720, Surveys of Students);
9. disclosure of students' free and reduced-price lunch eligibility information or eligibility status; and
10. disclosure of the identity of any student receiving supplemental education services under the Title I program.

#### **E. WEBSITE NOTIFICATION**

When a school is identified for 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 the 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.

Legal References: Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 6301 *et seq.* , Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, 34 C.F.R. pt. 99; Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, 20 U.S.C. 1232h, 34 C.F.R. pt. 98; Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400, *et seq.*; Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, 15 U.S.C. 2641, *et seq.*; McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 11431, *et seq.*; 42 U.S.C. 1758, 7 C.F.R. pt. 245; 42 U.S.C. 1758b; National School Lunch Program, 42 U.S.C. 1751, *et seq.*; 7 C.F.R. 210(12); Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. 20 U.S.C. 7905, 34 C.F.R. 108.9; 20 U.S.C. 7908; G.S. 90-21.1, 95-28.3; 115C-47 (47), -47(51), -47(54), -47(58), -81(e), -105.41, -109.1,-307(c), -375.4; -390.2, -391.1, -407.16; State Board of Education Policies FCB-A-000, GCS-J-002

Cross References: Title I Parent Involvement (policy 1320), Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying (policy 1710), Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Complaint Procedure (policy 1720), Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities (policy 1730), Student and Parent Grievance Procedure (policy 1740), Curriculum Development (policy 3100), Student Performance Standards (all policies in the 3400 series), [Students at Risk of Academic Failure (policy 3405),]Special Education Programs/Rights of Disabled Students (policy 3520), Comprehensive Health Education Program (policy 3540), Counseling Program (policy 3610), Athletics and Extracurricular Activities (policy 3620), Homeless Students (policy 4125), [School Improvement Choice Transfer (policy 4153)], Student Insurance Program (policy 4220), Child Abuse - Reports and Investigations (policy 4240), Student Behavior Policies (all policies in the 4300 series), Student Fees (policy 4600), Student Records (policy 4700), Surveys of Students (policy 4720), School Volunteers (policy 5015), Registered Sex Offenders (policy 5022), Administering Medicines to Students (policy 6125), Student Wellness (policy 6140), Free and Reduced Price Food Services (policy 6225), Pest Management (policy 9205)

Adopted: February 2, 1998

Revised: April 1, 2003; June 6, 2011; January 16, 2014