

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Community Involvement

Parent [/Guardian] and Family Involvement

## I. [Philosophy and] Purpose

- A. BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (BCPS) ENDORSES MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIPS AMONG SCHOOLS, PARENTS, FAMILY CAREGIVERS, AND THE COMMUNITY. Comprehensive programs of parent[/guardian], family, and community involvement require schools to promote and support communicating, parenting, student learning, volunteering, school decision-making and advocacy, collaborating with the community, and building partnerships at all grade levels in a variety of roles.
- B. BCPS WILL IMPLEMENT THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT RULE TO ESTABLISH A STRONG AND EFFECTIVE SYSTEM OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT WITHIN THE BCPS SCHOOLS, INCLUDING TITLE I SCHOOLS, AND TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS AND CRITERIA THAT MEET BOTH FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS.

## II. DEFINITIONS

- A. *ACADEMIC COACHING* – MEANS INSTRUCTING STUDENTS IN LEARNING STRATEGIES THAT HELP THEM COMPLETE HOMEWORK AND REACH ACADEMIC SUCCESS.
- B. *FAMILY* – MEANS A CHILD’S PRIMARY CARE-GIVING UNIT.
- C. *PARENT* – FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY, PARENT MEANS: THE BIOLOGICAL PARENT, LEGAL GUARDIAN OR CUSTODIAN, FOSTER PARENT, OR PERSON ACTING IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN.
- D. *PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT* – MEANS THE PARTICIPATION OF PARENTS IN REGULAR, TWO-WAY, AND MEANINGFUL COMMUNICATION INVOLVING STUDENT ACADEMIC PROGRESS AND OTHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING ENSURING:
  - 1. THAT PARENTS PLAY AN INTEGRAL ROLE IN ASSISTING THEIR CHILD’S LEARNING;
  - 2. THAT PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED AT SCHOOL IN THEIR CHILD’S EDUCATION;
  - 3. THAT PARENTS ARE FULL PARTNERS IN THEIR CHILD’S EDUCATION AND ARE INCLUDED, AS APPROPRIATE, IN

DECISION-MAKING AND ON ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO ASSIST IN THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILD.

- E. *PARTNERSHIP* – MEANS AN ASSOCIATION OF TWO OR MORE PARTIES TAKING PART IN SOME ACTIVITY IN COMMON WITH ONE ANOTHER OR OTHERS, WORKING TOWARD THE SAME GOALS.

III. GUIDELINES

- A. The Superintendent will designate appropriate staff to ensure the following PRACTICES ARE IMPLEMENTED TO SUPPORT PARENT, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT [criteria]:
  - 1. Communicating
    - a. Publicize the school’s commitment to parent[/guardian], family, and community involvement.
    - b. Promote clear, two-way communication between school and home concerning school programs and student[s’] progress.
    - c. Provide processes for addressing the concerns of parents[/guardians], families, and community members AND DISSEMINATE THIS INFORMATION USING A VARIETY OF MEANS; SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, NEWSLETTERS, SCHOOL-PARENT ORIENTATION PROGRAMS, AND SCHOOL SYSTEM WEB SITES.
  - 2. Parenting
    - a. Help parents[/guardians] and families enhance ACADEMIC COACHING [parenting] skills and foster conditions that support student[s’] learning.
  - 3. Student Learning
    - a. Provide opportunities for parents[/guardians], families, and community members to develop and refine the knowledge and skills needed to support student[s’] academic achievement, including activities and resources that connect to what students are learning in the classroom.
  - 4. Volunteering
    - a. Recruit, encourage, and recognize parents[/guardians], families, and community members as volunteers.
    - b. Promote effective use of volunteers in instructional and non-instructional roles.
  - 5. School Decision-Making and Advocacy
    - a. Make parent[/guardian] and family involvement an integral component of the school improvement process.

- b. Support parents[/guardians] and families as decision-makers and promote AND INCLUDE their leadership in advisory and advocacy roles;[.] SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAMS, CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEES, AREA EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES, ACTION TEAMS, AND CHARACTER EDUCATION COMMITTEES.
- 6. Collaborating with the Community
  - a. Work cooperatively with community agencies that provide assistance to students as well as to parents[/guardians] and families.
  - b. Seek partnerships with interested businesses and community organizations to promote student success.
- 7. Building Partnerships
  - a. Provide an OPEN, SAFE, inviting, and welcoming environment where parent[/guardian], family, and community involvement is valued, [and] respected.
  - b. Encourage the use of professional development opportunities and resources to support effective parent[/guardian], family, and community involvement THROUGH AVAILABLE SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES.

IV. [II.] Compliance

- A. All school-based and central office staff shall comply with the *Parent, [/guardian] and Family Involvement* Policy, [1270] ITS IMPLEMENTING RULE AND PROCEDURES, AS WELL AS PERFORMANCE GOALS 6 AND 7 OF THE BCPS MASTER PLAN, by implementing the strategies, activities, and measures [cited in the Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) Master Plan, Goals 6 and 7,] regarding parent[/guardian] and family involvement in the educational process.
- B. Schools shall seek involvement from all parents[/guardians], regardless of their educational attainment, race/ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, primary language, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability.
- C. The Department of Professional Development and the Office of Title I will annually convene a group of parents and community stakeholders to review [the] SCHOOL SYSTEM'S *Parent [/guardian] and Family Involvement* policy, rule and administrative procedures. THIS GROUP SHALL INCLUDE A REPRESENTATION OF PARENTS FROM TITLE I SCHOOLS.

[D. Volunteers shall be responsible for completing all training and background investigation processes.]

Legal References: 20 U.S.C. §6301 ET SEQ., *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, AS AMENDED BY SECTION 1118(A)(2) OF THE *ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT* (ESEA)  
*Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article §4-112, *Advisory Committees*

Related Policies: Board of Education Policy 1100, *Communication with the Public*  
Board of Education Policy 1200, *Community Involvement*  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 1210, *PARENT-TEACHER (STUDENT) ASSOCIATIONS*  
Board of Education Policy 1220, *Citizens Advisory Committee*  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 1230, *AREA EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCILS (AEAC)*  
Board of Education Policy 1240, *Visits to Schools*  
Board of Education Policy 1250, *Participation in the Local School by Community Members*  
Board of Education Policy 1260, *School Volunteers*

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