

PARENT/GUARDIAN ENGAGEMENT

The Colorado Springs School District 11 Board of Education (the Board) believes that parent/guardian engagement is key to academic achievement. The term “parent” refers to any caregiver/guardian who assumes responsibility for nurturing and caring for their children. When parents/guardians are involved in their children’s education, the attitudes, behaviors, and achievement of students are enhanced.

Parents/guardians and families provide the primary educational environment for children; consequently, parents/guardians are vital and necessary partners with the educational communities throughout their children’s school career. Although parents/guardians come to the schools with diverse cultural backgrounds, primary languages, and needs, universally all parents/guardians want what is best for their children.

In order to encourage parent/guardian engagement, six essential elements shall be promoted:

1. Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful: Effective communication requires school-initiated contact with the parent/guardian and parent/guardian-initiated contact with the school where both parties provide vital information about a child’s strengths, challenges and accomplishments. To communicate effectively, both parties must be aware of and address issues such as cultural diversity, language differences and special needs. Appropriate steps shall be taken to allow clear communication between participants.
2. Responsible parenting is promoted and supported: The family plays a key role in a child’s educational environment. School personnel and program staff shall support positive parenting by respecting and affirming the strengths and skills needed by parents/guardians to fulfill their role. Parents/guardians shall be linked to programs and resources within the community that provide needed support services.
3. Parents/guardians play an integral role in assisting student learning: Student achievement increases when parents/guardians are actively involved in the learning process. Schools shall therefore provide opportunities for parents/guardians to learn effective ways to support their child’s educational needs including information about how parents/guardians can support student behaviors such as punctuality and regular attendance that are closely tied to student success in school.
4. Parents/guardians are welcomed as volunteers in schools: Parent/guardians volunteers are essential for advancing student achievement. Therefore, parents/guardians shall be welcome and invited to volunteer at all educational levels. Volunteer opportunities shall capitalize on the expertise, interests and skills of the parents/guardians, and have a direct connection to school and district goals. (Policy IJOC and regulation IJOC-R provide the criteria for approval of volunteers.)
5. Parents/guardians are full partners in the decisions that affect their children and families: Parents/guardians and educators have a mutual responsibility to make informed decisions related to all aspects of the education provided to our students. Schools shall actively enlist parent/guardian participation in decision-making. Further, efforts shall be made to recruit and support participation by parents/guardians representing diverse student groups such as: limited English proficient, special needs, gifted and talented, and homeless. The role of parents/guardians in

decision-making shall be continually evaluated, refined, and expanded at the District and school levels.

6. Parents/guardians, school and community collaborate in order to enhance student learning, strengthen families and improve schools: Parents/guardians, educators and community members will work together in order to promote and effectively increase educational opportunities for children. When schools and communities form partnerships, both make gains that outpace what either entity could accomplish on its own.

Adopted May 1992
Revised May 2004
Revised May 14, 2014

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 8-40-101, et seq. (Workers' Compensation Act of Colorado)
C.R.S. 22-7-301, et seq.
C.R.S. 22-11 all (Educational Accountability)
C.R.S. 22-32-142
C.R.S. 24-10-101, et seq. (Colorado Governmental Immunity Act)

CROSS REFS. AE, Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishment
AED, Accreditation
EB, Safety Program
EI, Insurance and Self-Insurance Program/Risk Management
IHBJ and IHBJ-R, Parent Involvement in Title I Education
IJOA, Field Trips
IJOC and IJOC-R, School Volunteer Services
IKACA, Parent Conferences, Staff Meetings and School Meetings
JJH-R, Student Travel (Out-of-State/Country)
KF, Community Use of District Property (for Non-District Use)
KI, Visitors to Schools
Family-School Partnerships: An Implementation Guide (a/k/a as the "Family Involvement Toolkit")