

PARENT/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT

The Governing Board recognizes that parents/guardians are their children's first and most influential teachers and that continued parental involvement in the education of children contributes greatly to student achievement and conduct. The positive link between student achievement and the support of parents of the teaching and learning process is indisputable. Parents/guardians can directly affect academic success by reinforcing their children's motivation and commitment to education. Additionally, the District shall include parent/guardian involvement strategies as a component of instructional planning through various school sites and parent advisory councils, parent/teacher conferences, and parent education activities.

The Superintendent or designee shall work with staff and parents/guardians to develop meaningful opportunities at all grade levels for parents/guardians to be involved in district and school activities; advisory, decision-making, and advocacy roles; and activities to support learning at home.

Parents/guardians shall be notified of their rights to be informed about and to participate in their children's education and of the opportunities available to them to do so. The Superintendent or designee will work to build each schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement through assistance, materials, parent education, staff education, program coordination, and other activities.

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly evaluate and report to the Board on the effectiveness of the district's parent involvement efforts, including, but not limited to, input from parents/guardians and school staff on the adequacy of parent involvement opportunities and barriers that may inhibit parent/guardian participation.

Title I Schools

Each year the Superintendent or designee shall identify specific objectives of the district's parent involvement program for schools that receive Title I funding. He/she shall ensure that parents/guardians are consulted and participate in the planning, design, implementation, and evaluation of the parent involvement program. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure coordination and technical assistance to assist schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student achievement.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district's parent involvement strategies are jointly developed with and agreed upon by parents/guardians of students participating in Title I programs. Those strategies shall establish expectations for parent involvement and describe how the district will carry out each activity.

The Superintendent or designee shall consult with parents/guardians of participating students in the planning and implementation of parent involvement programs, activities, and regulations. He/she will conduct, with parent/guardian involvement, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent involvement policy. The Superintendent or designee also shall

involve parents/guardians of participating students in decisions regarding how the district's Title I funds will be allotted for parent involvement activities.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each school receiving Title I funds develops a school-level parent involvement policy. He/she will ensure coordination and integration of parent involvement strategies developed under Title I with other categorical programs.

Title 1 and Non-Title I Schools

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement strategies applicable to each school that does not receive federal Title I funds to encourage the involvement and support of parents/guardians in the education of their children, including, but not limited to, strategies describing how the district and schools will address the purposes and goals described in Education Code 11502.

In order to engage parents/guardians positively in their children's education, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that staff members at each school:

1. Help parents/guardians develop parenting skills and provide home environments that support their children's academic efforts and their development as responsible members of society.
2. Inform parents/guardians that they can directly affect the success of their children's learning and provide them techniques and strategies that they may use to improve their children's academic success and help their children in learning at home.
3. Initiate consistent and effective two-way communication between the home and school so that parents/guardians may know when and how to help their children in support of classroom learning activities.
4. Offer training for employees that fosters effective and culturally sensitive communication with the home, including training on how to communicate with non-English speakers and how to give parents/guardians opportunities to assist in the instructional process both at school and at home.
5. Encourage parents/guardians to serve as volunteers in the schools, attend student performances and school meetings, and participate in site councils, advisory councils and other activities in which they may undertake governance, advisory and advocacy roles.
6. Include parents in helping schools plan and implement effective program improvement activities to improve student achievement.
7. Ask parents to be involved in annually evaluating the content and effectiveness of the parent involvement policy and use this evaluation to plan more effective parent involvement activities.

The Governing Board recognizes that notifications are essential to effective communication between the school and the home. The Superintendent or designee shall send students and parents/guardians all notifications required by law, including notifications about their legal rights, and any other notifications he/she believes will promote parental understanding and involvement.

Notifications to parents/guardians shall be written both in English and in the family's primary language when so required by law. Whenever an employee learns that a student's parent/guardian is for any reason unable to understand the district's printed notifications, the principal or designee shall work with the parent/guardian to establish other appropriate means of communication.

The Board encourages parents/guardians to serve as volunteers, guest speakers, consultants and tutors in the schools and to attend student performances and school meetings.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

11500-11506 Programs to encourage parent involvement

48985 Notices in languages other than English

51101 Parent rights and responsibilities

64001 Single plan for student achievement

LABOR CODE

230.8 Time off to visit child's school

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6311 Parental notice of teacher qualifications and student achievement

6312 Local educational agency plan

6314 Schoolwide programs

6316 School improvement

6318 Parent involvement

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28

35.104 Definitions, auxiliary aids and services

35.160 Communications

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Parent Involvement: Development of Effective and Legally Compliant Policies, Governance and Policy Services Policy Briefs, August 2006

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES

89-01 Parent Involvement in the Education of Their Children, rev. 1994

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION NON-REGULATORY GUIDANCE

Parental Involvement: Title I, Part A, April 23, 2004

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education, Family, School, Community Partnerships:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/pf>

Policy

adopted: February 8, 1999

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CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

San Juan Capistrano, California