Resource 6

Creating a Family Involvement Policy

Use this tool to develop a Family Involvement Policy.

Schools are encouraged to create a Family Involvement Policy which includes a goal statement, a belief statement for the inclusion of families at school, as well as statements which outline the six components of family involvement programs identified by the National PTA's Standards for Parental Involvement Programs. The policy should also include a statement on how the school will provide professional development for teachers and administration.

While creating your school’s Family Involvement Policy, think about how this policy can be incorporated into the district and/or school level Educational Plan for Student Success (EPSS).

Below are some sample statements that could be used to develop a Family Involvement Policy that reflects the school’s efforts in increasing family involvement.

Sample Goal Statement:

______Name of School______ understands that engaging parents in the educational process is essential to improved academic success for students. We recognize that a child’s education is a responsibility shared by the school and the family during the entire time a child attends school. Therefore, ______Name of School______ shall foster and support active parent involvement so that parents and schools work together as knowledgeable partners in educating children.

Sample Inclusion Statement:

Although parents may be diverse in culture, language and needs, they share the school’s commitment to the educational success of their children. ______Name of School______ recognizes its responsibility to eliminate barriers that impede family involvement and to create an environment that is supportive of comprehensive family involvement programs that have been developed in collaboration with parents. Therefore, this policy shall establish programs and practices that reflect the specific needs of students and their families.

Sample Effective Programs Statement:

______Name of School______ supports the development, implementation and regular evaluation of a parent involvement program at ______Name of School______ that includes parents at all grade levels and in a variety of roles.
Sample Statements Which Include the Six Components of Family Involvement Programs:

- Communication between home and school is regular, two-way and meaningful. [Include statements describing the need for a regular exchange of information with families.]

- Responsible parenting is promoted and supported. [Include statements explaining the value of recognizing parents as a child’s first and most important teacher.]

- Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning. [Include statements describing a commitment to giving parents opportunities to participate in their child’s learning both at home and at school.]

- Parents are welcome in the school and their support and assistance in volunteering are sought in many ways. [Include statements describing commitment to create a family-friendly environment, survey parents for volunteer interests and abilities and recruit and retain volunteers.]

- Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families. [Include statements describing a commitment to providing opportunities for families to share in decisions about school policy and family involvement program design.]

- Community resources are made available to strengthen school programs, family practices and student learning. [Include statements describing a commitment to working with community agencies that provide services to children and families.]

Sample Professional Development Statement:

________ Name of School ________ is committed to providing professional development for staff and leadership throughout the school year to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies. ______ Name of School ________ also recognizes the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parent participation.