

PARENT/FAMILY INVOLVEMENT POLICY

The Board recognizes that when parents and families are involved, students have higher grades and test scores, better attendance, and higher graduation rates. According to the US Department of Education, roughly one-half of students achieve highest grades when one or both parents are highly supportive, regardless of whether the child is in a single or dual parent home. Children also exhibit more positive attitudes and better behavior.

Parents as school partners are at the heart of the Parent/Family Involvement Policy. The Hillsboro-Deering School District welcomes parents as partners in order to increase the educational success of each student. As equal partners in making Hillsboro-Deering schools the best they can be, parents and family members are key to helping children succeed in school and out. To help schools and parents work together for student achievement, the Hillsboro-Deering School Board supports the following standards for parent and family involvement, based on those established by the National PTA:

1. **Communicating:** Communication between home and school is ongoing, three-way (school, home, and student), respectful and meaningful.
2. **Parenting:** Parenting skills are promoted and supported.
3. **Student Learning:** Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning.
4. **Volunteering:** Parents are welcome in school, and their support and assistance are sought.
5. **School Decision-Making and Advocacy:** Parents are full partners in decisions that affect children and families.
6. **Collaborating with Community:** Community resources are used to strengthen schools, families, and student learning.

As equal partners in making Hillsboro-Deering schools the best they can be, parents, students, staff, and community members involved in the schools have a right to respect from each other. Parents are responsible for modeling respect for every member of the school community and encouraging their children to do the same. Students are responsible for showing respect for themselves, their peers, their school, and the school community. The school staff are responsible for fostering an atmosphere of respect for each member of the school community (students, parents, staff, guests).

Each school, the School district, and the School Board will have a variety of ways for parents to interact meaningfully with the school(s). Some parents or families will want to concentrate on basic involvement specifically for their child. Other parents may wish to become more involved by serving on committees or volunteering in other ways. Basic parental involvement includes the following:

1. **Prepared to Learn:** Each child is fed, has appropriate clothing, is on time and ready to learn each school day.
2. **Learning at Home:** Parents track homework assignments and coach their children as needed.

3. **Reading at Home:** A quiet place and time is provided for daily reading and homework.
4. **Parent/Teacher Conferences:** One or more parents or a family member attends parent teacher conferences.
5. **Paperwork:** Paperwork is completed and returned promptly.

In recognizing that parents play a key role in assisting student learning, Hillsboro-Deering schools will have implemented successful programs when the following quality indicators have been met:

1. Schools and staff at all levels seek and encourage parental participation in decision-making that affects students.
2. Parents are informed of the expectations for students in each subject at each grade level.
3. Parents are provided with information on how they can foster learning at home, give appropriate assistance, monitor homework, and give feedback to teachers.

To this end, the School Board supports the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of a parent and family involvement program in each school, which will involve parents at all grade levels in a variety of roles. The parent involvement programs will be comprehensive and coordinated in nature. They will include, but not be limited to, the recommendations listed above.

For more information on involving yourself or your family members in your child's education, please contact your child's school.

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