

North Slope Borough School District Parent Involvement Plan

Positive parent involvement is essential to student achievement

Research shows that when families are involved in a child's education, test scores are higher, attendance is better and students have a more positive attitude. Every school is developing a Parent Involvement Plan that relates to a school meeting its academic goals. The plan outlines opportunities for families to get engaged in their child's education. Many schools have goals that reach beyond classroom volunteerism, such as providing parent training on specialized school computer programs and involving a higher percentage of parents in reading incentive programs.

Facts

Families can make a significant difference in children's learning and academic success. The following are some important facts:

- Students spend approximately 90% of their time from birth to age 18 outside of school
- When families are involved in schools, reading test scores are higher.
- If a family values education and encourages learning, they can raise successful learners, regardless of their income-level.

How Parents Can Help

Ask questions daily. Ask what the child is learning and press for specifics. A child should know what he or she is learning, such as addition of two digit numbers, long division or multiple representations of data in algebra class. Ask the child if he or she is doing good work and help him or her self-assess the work. If a child can do this, then he or she is becoming an independent learner and can see the relevance of the work. If children don't know how or when to use information, it will soon be forgotten.

Participate in the Parent-Teacher Association/Organization – join your school's PTA/PTO and support parents through activities like book fairs, curriculum nights, and fundraising. Contact your school for more information.

Volunteer – Share your talent, time and treasure with NSBSD students and staff. Serve as a mentor, become a tutor, assist as a lunch buddy, provide your expertise in graphic design and cultural arts. Call your school to find out how you can contribute.

Visit the school regularly – Don't wait for a special occasion! Get to know your child's teacher and principal. Come by for lunch or visit the classroom. We want to get to know you. Quality learning requires meaningful two-way communication. In the interest of student safety, please be prepared to sign in at the office and show identification upon request. If a staff member stops you to ask for identification, please be aware that this is a safety precaution and is not intended to offend you or discourage your visit. Thank you for helping us keep our schools safe for students and staff.

Advocate for Your Child – You know your child better than anyone. Help us to learn more about him or her. Make sure the teacher, principal and staff know about any special needs your child may have. Attend parent-teacher conferences. Send a note to the teacher. Contact school staff anytime you have a question or concern.

Create an Enriched Learning Environment at Home – Did you know that the home is a classroom, too? Many learning opportunities happen in the home and community, as well as at school. Offer different kinds of reading material – magazines or newspapers as well as books. This enhances vocabulary and develops critical thinking skills.

Have Family Fun! Spend a few minutes every day simply being together and enjoying each other's company. Listen to your child. Let your child pick up an activity to do with you, like a game or a walk or just talking. No one in the world can offer your child what you can. Remind your child that you belong to each other.

Parent Involvement Opportunities

In order to support and promote essential parent involvement, our district provides opportunities for parent involvement organized around the six National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement.

Standard #1: Communicating--Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful.

Standard #2: Parenting--Parenting skills are promoted and supported.

Standard #3: Student Learning--Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning.

Standard #4: Volunteering--Parents are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance are sought.

Standard #5: School Decision Making and Advocacy--Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families.

Standard #6: Collaborating and Community--Community resources are used to strengthen schools, families, and student learning.

COMMUNICATING--Communication tools may include newsletters, report cards and other progress reports, parent-teacher conferences, course/scheduling information, student handbooks, email, websites, phone calls, postcards, etc. Here's how our district helps ensure communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful.

- Regular newsletters sent home by both teachers and the principal
- Parent-Teacher Conferences in the Fall and Spring and when needed beyond those times
- Open House scheduled the first weeks of school to develop a road map for the year with classroom teachers
- School Report Card Meeting scheduled each October to review previous year's test data and to set goals for the year
- School Improvement Plan Committee involves parents helping to set goals at each school in the district
- District Improvement Plan Committee involves parents helping to set district level goals
- Title 1 Planning Team--parents are involved in developing the Title 1 Plan every year
- School Advisory Committee--An active organization that works closely with staff and students to develop our goals each year. This organization meets monthly at the school
- Individual Learning Plans are developed with input from the student, parent and teacher
- Student Handbooks are provided to each family the beginning of each school year
- Report cards are provided each quarter
- Individual Education Plan Meetings are scheduled annually with parents of students with special needs
- Teacher and Administrator Evaluation forms are provided each year for parent comments
- School Climate Surveys are done every year by the district and shared with parents during the School Report Card Meeting

- Interpreters are provided for bilingual families to help communicate during meetings
- Parents Procedural Safeguards are presented to parents of special needs students
- Federal Program Parent Advisory Committee-A parent committee with representatives from each community across the NSBSD that meets three times per year to provide input concerning Federal Grant Activities

PARENTING--Activities may include parenting workshops, parent information centers, removing barriers such as cultural and language differences, developing family kits, etc.

- There are parent nights provided by the After School Program and/or Title 1 that focus on academics
- Safe Schools/Healthy students provide brochures and information to parents on timely topics
- Home/School Reading Programs are developed in many classrooms
- Math, Literacy, Science and Family Gym Nights are provided

STUDENT LEARNING--Examples include information on ways parents can help students with specific projects, grade level performance standards, interactive homework assignments, helping students set and reach educational goals, understanding their learning style, etc.

- Open House in the Fall provides important information about each grade level and classroom
- Parents are provided with grade level expectations and testing requirements and content and performance standards
- Individual plans are established for children who are having difficulty in academic areas or social/behavioral areas
- Progress reports are sent home mid quarter as well as quarterly by classroom teachers
- Teachers provide classroom expectations for projects within the classroom
- Individual learning plans are established for all children with parental input

VOLUNTEERING--Examples include a welcoming climate, opportunities for volunteerism during and outside regular school hours, volunteer appreciation, meaningful activities based on volunteer interests and abilities.

- Back To School Social
- Health Screening
- Volunteers in the Classroom
- School Pictures
- Science Fair
- Staff Appreciation Week
- Red Ribbon Week
- Field Trips

- Pre K/Kindergarten Celebrations
- Resident Experts: Parents that present projects in the classrooms or for grade levels
- School/Community Partnerships

SCHOOL DECISION-MAKING AND ADVOCACY--Provide well-publicized processes for influencing decisions, raising issues or concerns, and resolving problems; form school SAC or other parent groups; encourage participation on advisory committees, involve parents in setting school goals; and involve parents in decisions that affect their children.

- Title 1 Planning Team is a collaborative-decision making body that outlines goals and objectives for the Title 1 Program for the year
- Annual School Report Card Meeting-Parents are informed of yearly testing progress and provide meaningful input to improve academic achievement in the school and to discuss other concerns and celebrate successes
- Parent input regarding class placement for their child for the following year is provided in the spring
- Teacher and administrative evaluation forms are provided each year
- School Climate Surveys are provided and the information is shared among staff and parents and helps us to develop goals
- Individual Education Plans are developed for students with special needs in conjunction with parents
- Intervention Plans are developed with parents for behavioral support for students

COLLABORATING WITH COMMUNITY--Utilize community resources; develop partnerships; foster student participation in community service; involve community members in school volunteer programs.

- Alaska Native Education works with students on understanding the native cultures and by bringing elders to our school for special projects
- Barrow Arctic Science Consortium works with students on understanding the science research and resources available to students on the Slope and visit the classrooms to give presentations
- NSB Fire Department visits the schools to educate students on fire safety
- Boys and Girls Club works with students in after school programs
- Rotary Club donates coats, eye glasses, and other necessities to the schools
- ECHO program provides funding for local Native Dancers to teach students to dance for the school Christmas programs