

Parent Involvement Policy

The GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT is committed to building strong partnerships between home, school, and community. Providing students' families with opportunities to become involved in their child's education and the life of the school, from pre-school right through high school graduation, is essential to improving student achievement and providing opportunities after graduation.

Every Gill-Montague Regional school is expected to:

1. Involve parents in the joint development and annual review of:

- The School Improvement Plan
- The District Parent Involvement Plan
- Home-School Compacts

2. Convene an annual meeting with parents to discuss and disseminate information regarding:

- School Improvement Plans
- Home-School Compacts
- MCAS Standards
- School performance programs
- Curriculum in place at the school
- Proficiency levels expected of all students
- Parent's rights regarding information pertaining to their student/school
- Additional information as deemed necessary by school

3. Schedule Parent-Teacher Conferences to discuss:

- Individual student's progress in meeting state performance standards
- Individual student's progress in class
- Assessments used at the school
- School/family issues that may be impacting student's performance/behavior
- Parents' questions and concerns regarding academic programs

4. Disseminate, discuss and have the Home-School Compacts signed through Parent/Teacher Conferences.

5. Send information home in language used in the home whenever possible

6. Provide quarterly progress reports in the form of meetings, report cards or other written reports.

7. Build capacity for strong parental involvement through:

- Volunteer Opportunities
- Workshops
- Parenting Sessions
- Flexible meeting times to encourage parent participation
- Innovative ways to involve families with diverse needs
- Training for staff in effective communication with parents

8. Coordinate/integrate parent involvement strategies with programs such as:

- Special Education
- Early Childhood
- Safe and Drug Free Schools
- Bilingual
- Community Service Agencies

9. Conduct an annual evaluation to:

- Determine effectiveness of parent participation
- Identify barriers to increase parental participation
- Use findings to design strategies for improvement of parent involvement policies

Suggested Ways for Parents to Support this Policy

Parents can support this policy by being:

- Co-teachers of their children by...
 - o Participating in workshops on ways to support the school's instructional program at home
 - o Providing at-home activities to support school learning
- Co-Supporters of school involvement activities by providing opportunities to become...
 - o Classroom volunteers
 - o School/classroom tutors
 - o Active planners/participants in school-based family activities
- Co-Communicators with the school by...
 - o Attending Open House
 - o Attending Parent Conferences
 - o Reading newsletters and other communications sent home
 - o Attending the Annual Meeting
- Co-advocates for their children by serving on policy and decision-making committees, such as...
 - o School-Improvement Team
 - o School Community Council
 - o District-level committees
 - o PTO
- Co-learners for themselves to increase self-knowledge and skills by attending and participating in parenting workshops.

Suggested Ways for Schools to Support this Policy

EDUCATING PARENTS

- Provide parenting workshops
- Providing workshops on issues affecting children
- Provide workshops on how to help with homework and test preparation

COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY

- Send communications in the language of the home whenever possible
- Schedule individual parent-teacher conferences at convenient times
- Provide interpreters for school conferences
- Inform parents of their rights regarding information pertaining to their student/school
- Involve all persons interested in the child, not just biological parents
- Communicate clear grade-by-grade curriculum goals and expectations for classwork and homework, with examples of “proficient” student work
- Provide a welcoming environment at each school
- Provide clearly communicated procedures for parents to contact teachers, including by phone and e-mail
- Return phone calls within 24 hours
- Provide a Family Center area within the school
- Assure that staff members are available to meet with parents at convenient times

PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

- Classroom volunteers
- PTO
- Fund-raising and planning family fun events

LEARNING AT HOME

- Support home reading programs
- Provide at home activities

DECISION MAKING

- Convene an Annual Meeting at a convenient time for parents
- Involve parents on the planning, review, and improvement of school parent involvement policy and the district involvement policy
- Involve parents in creating School Improvement Plan
- Involve parents in creating/reviewing Home and School Compacts
- Provide parents with timely information about Title I programs, curriculum, and assessment procedures
- Provide flexible meeting times for parents

COLLABORATING WITH THE COMMUNITY

- Special events such as Reading and Math Literacy Nights
- Create links with social services and health agencies and community groups to support key family and community issues
- Support the CPC (Community partnership for Children) program
- Participate in MCSP (Montague Community School Partnership) activities
- Voter registration at school functions
- Share school facilities in support of community-based celebrations enhancing school-community ties

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