

## **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

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The Avery County Board of Education recognizes the critical role of parents in the education of their children and in the schools. The board directs school administrators to develop programs that will promote and support parental involvement in student learning and achievement at school and at home and encourage successful progress toward graduation. Each parent is encouraged to learn about the educational program, the educational goals and objectives of the school system and his or her own child's progress. The board also encourages parents to participate in activities designed by the schools to involve them, such as parent conferences, in order to encourage effective communication.

The board directs each school to develop a parental involvement plan as a part of the school improvement plan. This plan must include, at a minimum, the board directives provided below. In addition, the plan must include ways to enhance parental involvement in the following areas:

1. meaningful two-way communication between home and school;
2. promotion of responsible parenting;
3. involving parents/guardians in student learning;
4. promotion of volunteering;
5. involving parents/guardians in school decisions that affect children and families;
6. parental training;
7. community collaboration; and
8. promotion of student health awareness.

This policy applies to the parents, legal guardians and legal custodians of students who are under 18 years old and are not married.

### **A. PARENT COMMUNICATION AND CONFERENCES**

The board requires regular contact with parents by school personnel for commendation as well as for notification of concerns. Schools will plan for periodic communications with parents in the following manner:

#### **Interim Reports: Notification Concerning Class Grades**

1. All middle and high school teachers are required to send interim reports to all students at the mid-point of each grading period.
2. All elementary regular classroom teachers and "teachers of record" for academic classes are required to send interim reports to all students. Special teachers (i.e. art, music, P. E., library, computer, guidance, etc.) are required to send interim reports if a student has had a drop in behavior or performance.
3. If the report indicates a student has had a drop in grade or may not pass the grading period, then Interim Reports must be signed by the parent and returned to the teacher. If the teacher does not receive the signed document

from the parent, it is the teacher's responsibility to call or meet with the parent and document that conversation.

4. Teachers may offer rewards (such as a point added to a final average) for the student returning the interim report. However, punishment may not be used.

**Notification Concerning Repeating a Grade or a Course**

1. If any student is not making satisfactory progress toward promotion or passing the End-of Grade/End -of-Class exam, parents must be notified at the mid-year (elementary and middle school) or mid-semester (high school). This communication must be confirmed by signature of the parent, and/or documented meetings.

**Notification Concerning High School Graduation**

1. If a student may not graduate on time, parents must be notified in person or by certified mail by mid-semester, or as soon as a teacher becomes aware of the problem.

**B. TITLE I PARENT CONSULTATION POLICY**

The Title I program offers assistance to meet special educational needs of educationally and economically disadvantaged children according to federal guidelines. The board encourages parents to participate in the design and implementation of the programs and activities in order to increase the effectiveness of the program and the success of the children.

An annual meeting will be held for parents of all eligible Title I children to discuss the Title I funded programs and activities. In addition to the annual meeting, the board encourages parents to confer with their child's Title I teacher on a regular basis.

Each school will annually notify parents of limited English proficient children identified for participation or participating in a Title I, Part A-funded language instruction educational program of the following:

1. reasons for the identification;
2. level of English proficiency;
3. methods of instruction;
4. how the program will help the child;
5. if the child has a disability, how the language instruction educational programs meets the objectives of the child's individualized educational program (IEP); and
6. any other information necessary to effectively inform the parent of the program.

**C. ANNUAL NOTIFICATION**

Each school must ensure that parents are effectively notified each year of the following:

1. parental rights related to student records (policy 4700, Student Records);
2. parental rights related to student surveys (policy 4720, Surveys of Students);
3. the approximate dates of any non-emergency, invasive physical examination that is: (1) required as a condition of attendance; (2) administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and (3) not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of students; and their right to opt their child out of any such examination;
4. the schedule of pesticide use on school property and their right to request notification of nonscheduled pesticide use;
5. student behavior policies and school standards and rules (policies in the 4300 series);
6. permissible use of seclusion and restraint in the schools (policy 4302)
7. Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Complaint Procedure (policy 1720/4015/7225);
8. Student and Parent Grievance Procedure (policy 1740/4010);
9. grading practices that will be followed at the school and, in the high schools, the means for computing the grade point averages that will be used for determining class rank (Evaluation of Student Progress, policy 3400; Class Rankings, policy 3450);
10. a description of the curriculum being offered (Curriculum Development, policy 3100);
11. performance standards of the board and school system (policies in the 3400 series);
12. a report containing aggregate information, including, but not limited to, student achievement (disaggregated by category), graduation rates, performance of the school system and teacher qualifications;
13. the right to request certain information on the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers and paraprofessionals providing services to the child;
14. if the student has been assigned or has been taught for at least four consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not "highly qualified" as defined in the *No Child Left Behind Act*.
15. the results of the LEA's yearly progress review of each school;
16. if a Title I school is identified for improvement, an explanation of students' transfer rights and other information required by 34 C.F.R. 200.37,
17. if a Title I school is identified for improvement and fails to make adequate yearly progress by the end of the first full year after being so identified, notice of the availability of supplemental services, a description of the supplemental services, the names of supplemental services providers and other necessary information in accordance with 34C.F.R. 200.37;
18. sports and extracurricular activities available for students (Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations, policy 3620);
19. supportive services available to students, including guidance, counseling and health services (Comprehensive Health Education Program, policy 3540; Counseling Program, policy 3610);
20. information about meningococcal meningitis and influenza, including the

- causes, symptoms, vaccines, how the diseases are spread and places where additional information and vaccinations may be obtained;
21. for students in grades five through twelve, information about cervical cancer, cervical dysplasia, and human papillomavirus, including the causes and symptoms of these diseases, how they are transmitted, how they may be prevented by vaccination, including the benefits and possible side effects of vaccination, and places parents and guardians may obtain additional information and vaccinations for their children;
  22. how to reach school officials in emergency situations during non-school hours; and
  23. the school's written parental policy, parent's right to be involved in their child's school and opportunities for parents to be involved in the school.
  24. Information about and an application form for free and reduced price meals and/or free milk;
  25. for parents of children with disabilities, procedural safeguards;
  26. information on the availability of the asbestos management plan and planned or in-progress inspections, re-inspections, response actions and post-response actions, including periodic re-inspection and surveillance activities; and
  27. that the school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age.

#### **D. OPPORTUNITIES TO WITHHOLD CONSENT**

As a part of the annual notification described above, parents will be effectively notified that they may opt out of any of the following:

1. release of student directory information about his or her child for school purposes or to outside organizations (Student Records, board policy 4700).
2. student's participation in curricula related to (1) prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), (2) the avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy, (3) reproductive health and safety education as provided in policy 3540. A copy of the materials that will be used in these curricula will be available in the school media center during the school year and other times that the media center is available to the public. To meet any review periods required by law, materials also may be made available for review in the central office.
3. student's use of guidance programs for individual counseling, small group counseling related to addressing specific problems, or referral to community resources in accordance with board policy 3610, Counseling Program. Parental notification and permission is not required for large group sessions, initial consultations intended to identify the student's needs, or counseling where child abuse or neglect is suspected. (See board policy 4240, Child Abuse - Reports and Investigations.)
4. student's participation in academic or career guidance or personal or social counseling services of a generic nature offered to groups of students (e.g., peer relations strategies offered to all sixth graders);

5. parental notification and permission is not required for; (1) short-duration academic, career, personal or social guidance and counseling and crisis intervention that is needed to maintain order, discipline or a productive learning environment; (2) student-initiated individual or group counseling targeted at a student's specific concerns or needs; or (3) counseling if child abuse or neglect is suspected - Child Abuse-Reports and Investigations policy 4240); and
6. student's participation in non-Department of Education funded surveys concerning protected topics (see board policy on Surveys of Students, 4720).
7. student's participation in programs or services providing information about where to obtain contraceptives or abortion referral services;
8. disclosure of a student's free and reduced price lunch eligibility status.

Any parent or legal guardian wishing to opt out/withhold consent must do so in writing after receiving notice. Otherwise, consent to the programs or activities is presumed. After the annual notification, the school is not required to provide further notice to the parent as to the manner in which student directory information is used, the curriculum is provided, or the guidance programs are made available.

#### **E. PARENTAL PERMISSION REQUIRED**

Written parental permission is required prior to the following activities:

1. medicines administered to students by employees of the school system (see policy 6125, Administering Medicines to Students);
2. any release of student records that are not considered directory information unless the release is allowed or required by law (see policy 4700, Student Records);
3. off campus trips;
4. participation in high impact or high risk sports or extracurricular activities, such as football or mountain climbing (see also policy 4220, Student Insurance Program);
5. parental permission as required by law for exceptional children (see policy 3520, Special Education Programs/Rights of Students with Disabilities);
6. parental permission as required by law for certain health services; and
7. surveys concerning protected topics that are funded by the Department of Education (see board policy on Surveys of Students, 4720).
8. student's participation in programs or services providing information about where to obtain contraceptives or abortion referral services;
9. disclosure of a student's free and reduced price lunch eligibility status.

#### **F. WEBSITE NOTIFICATION**

When a school is identified for improvement, the school system will display on its website the following information in a timely manner to ensure that parents have current information regarding supplemental services and public school choice:

2. beginning with data from the 2007-2008 school year and for each subsequent school year, the number of students who were eligible for and the number of students who participated in public school choice;
3. for the current school year, a list of available schools to which students eligible to participate in public school choice may transfer;
4. beginning with data from the 2007-2008 school year and for each subsequent school year, the number of students who were eligible for and the number of students who participated in supplemental educational services; and
5. for the current school year, a list of supplemental educational services providers approved by the state to serve the school system and the locations where services are provided.

Legal References: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g; No Child Left Behind Act, 20 U.S.C. 6318; 34 C.F.R. 200.37, -200.39; G.S. 90-21.1, 115C-47(45), -47(49), -81(e1), -307(c), -375.4; State Board of Education Policy FCB-A-000

Cross References: Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying (policy 1710/4021/7230), Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Complaint Procedure (policy 1720/4015/7225); Student and Parent Grievance Procedure (policy 1740/4010), Curriculum Development (policy 3100), Student Performance Policies (3400 series), Evaluation of Student Progress (policy 3400), Class Rankings (policy 3450), Special Education Programs/Rights of Students with Disabilities (policy 3520), Comprehensive Health Education Program (policy 3540), Counseling Program (policy 3610), Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations (policy 3620), School Improvement Choice Transfer (policy 4153), Student Insurance Program (policy 4220), Child Abuse – Reports and Investigations (policy 4240/7312), Student Behavior Policies (4300 series), School Plan for Management of Student Behavior (policy 4302), Student Records (policy 4700), Surveys of Students (policy 4720), Registered Sex Offenders (policy 5022), Administering Medicines to Students (policy 6125), Free and Reduced Price Food Services (policy 6225)

Adopted: 6/5/00

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