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Pittsfield School District

SCHOOL, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The School Board recognizes the importance of having a strong partnership between the school system and the parents of our students as well as the community at large. It is therefore the policy of the Board to define standards for involvement between schools, the parents of all students enrolled in the district's schools, and the community. The superintendent is directed to implement these standards.

District schools are welcoming places, clearly accessible to parents and the community. Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful. Parents are full partners in the educational decisions that affect children and families. Parents will be encouraged to visit their schools for beginning of the year events, such as open house and new student orientations, and other planned events throughout the school year. These events will be utilized to disseminate information on school policies, discipline procedures, assessment tools, and school and district goals.

Opportunities are provided to guide parents on ways to assist with homework, provide feedback to teachers, and how parents can help their children improve skills and academic performance.

Parents are encouraged to attend school-sponsored parent workshops to learn about parenting skills, health, safety, nutrition, home environments that support education, and other topics of child and adolescent development throughout the year. Reasonable efforts will be made to communicate with parents in their primary language or in the language in which they feel comfortable. For the purpose of this policy, the term "parent" refers to any adult – mother, father, older sibling, aunt, uncle, grandparent, guardian, mentor – who plays a significant role in the care of a student or students enrolled in district schools. Students and parents will receive information regarding cultural, recreational, academic, health, social, and other resources that serve families within the community.

The support of area businesses, agencies, and faith-based organizations will be sought through financial, goods and services, and volunteer contributions. Partnerships will be developed with local organizations, local city and county governments, and talented individuals to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning. Student participation in community service will be encouraged. Business partnerships will also be developed to assist students in the successful transition to college and career endeavors beyond high school graduation.

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