NNPS
Family and Community Engagement

Family & Community Engagement Policy

2024 - 2025

Engage . Inform . Empower .

NNPS Family and Community Engagement

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What is Family and Community Engagement?

There are three influences in a student's life: family, school, and community.

When there is an effective partnership among family, school, and community, every student succeeds.

Core Beliefs

- Share Decision Making
- Welcome all Families
- Advocate for Every Child
- Support Student Success
- Communicate Effectively
- Collaborate with the Community

NEWPORT NEWS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

After you have read the Family and Community Engagement Policy, please open the below link or use the QR Code to share your input or comments.

https://forms.gle/LUbwARru3xAPVFn9A

Newport News Public Schools encourages all families to provide input and feedback on the Family and Community Engagement Policy.

This policy includes contributions collected from stakeholders that participated in various experiences. This policy was adopted by Newport News Public Schools in November 2024 for the 2024-2025 school year.

NNPS Family and Community Engagement

Part I: School Family & Community Engagement Policy/Plan Components

A. Development and Distribution

- **Collaboration with Families** : Our school will work with families to create and revise the Family and Community Engagement Policy. The finalized policy will be shared with families and made accessible to the local community.
- **Distribution** : Newport News Public Schools (NNPS) will distribute the Title 1 Family and Community Engagement Policy electronically. Printed copies will also be available at each school's main office, the Family Resource Center, and on the NNPS Family Engagement and Community webpage at www.nnschools.org/face/. The policy is available in English and can be translated into other languages upon request.

B. Annual Meeting

- **Convening of Meeting** : Each fall, a schoolwide event will be held where Family and Community Engagement Specialists will present the Annual Family and Community Engagement Policy. All families are invited to learn about school participation in Title I and their rights to engagement.

C. Flexible Meeting Options

- **Scheduling** : Meetings will be offered in various formats, including morning, evening, and virtual options, throughout the school year to accommodate family schedules. Funds may be available to assist with transportation, childcare, and home visits to encourage participation.

D. Family Involvement in School Improvement

- **Participation in Planning** : Our Family Engagement Action Team, composed of family members, teachers, specialists, stakeholders, and PTA members, will work with the school's leadership to develop the Virginia Continuous Improvement Process. Parents will be involved in planning, reviewing, and improving the school plan.

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E. Outreach to English Learner (EL) Families

- **Support and Information in Native Languages** : The school will offer resources to EL parents, including information on how to assist their children with English proficiency and academic standards. This will include interpretation services, ESL classes, and support from bilingual specialists.

F. Information for Families

- **Timely Communicatio** n: Families will receive information about school programs, curriculum details, academic assessments, and student progress through websites, social media, communication apps, and in-person meetings.
- **Opportunities for Feedback** : Families can provide input through family forums, surveys, and direct contact with the school.

G. Family Feedback on Schoolwide Program Plans

- **Submission of Comments** : If families are not satisfied with the schoolwide program plan and policy, they may provide feedback, which will be communicated with the district. Feedback can be submitted to the building administrator or the Family and Community Engagement Specialist.

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Part II: Shared Responsibilities for Student Academic Achievement

A. Parent/Teacher Conferences : Conduct at least one annual conference in elementary schools to review the school-family compact, connecting it to each child's academic progress.

B. Progress Reports : Provide frequent updates to parents on their child's academic performance, ensuring transparency and timely communication.

C. Family Accessibility : Offer families reasonable access to school staff and opportunities for classroom involvement, such as volunteering and observing activities.

D. Effective Communication : Maintain regular, meaningful, two-way communication in a language that family members understand whenever possible.

E. Additional Support Structures :

- **Student Support Team Meetings** : Coordinate to address students' needs.
- **IEP and 504 Plans** : Develop and follow individualized education and accommodation plans for eligible students.
- **Progress and Quarterly Reports** : Provide routine reports on student progress.
- **Attendance Interventions** : Conduct meetings and develop attendance plans as needed.
- **Home Visits** : Facilitate home visits to further engage with families.

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Building Capacity for Families and Staff

Family and Staff Support

- **Understanding Academic Standards** : Schools will provide information and tools to help parents monitor student progress and communicate with educators. Resources include parent-teacher conferences, progress reports, Family Empowerment Forums, and Academic Family Engagement Events.
- **Materials and Training** : Families will have access to literacy training, technology education, and support for assisting students at home. These will be accessible through the NNPS Family Engagement webpage and other family-centered events.
- **Professional Development for Staf** f: Teachers and staff will receive training on the importance of family engagement and community partnership in academic achievement.

Coordination with Other Programs

- **Partnerships with Local Programs** : Schools will coordinate with federal, state, and local programs, including public preschool, to enhance engagement. This includes school-based Family Resource Centers and division-wide family events.

Accessibility for All Families

- **Information in Multiple Languages** : Communication regarding programs and activities will be provided in accessible formats and languages to support diverse family needs.
- **Interpretation Services and ESL Suppor** t: The Newport News Public Schools ESL Welcome Center, bilingual specialists, and translated materials will ensure effective communication with families of varying language abilities.

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The Following are Allowable Activities:

Covering Expenses for Family Engagement Activities

- The district can pay reasonable expenses related to Family and Community Engagement activities, including transportation and childcare, to enable parents to attend school-related meetings and training sessions.
- Transportation may be provided for both district-wide and school-based events.

Training Families to Support Family Involvement

Programs may offer training for families to encourage peer involvement in school activities and events.

- Examples include PTA, Family-to-Family training, and Family Engagement Action Teams.
- Families are encouraged to serve as ambassadors for school and district programs and events.

Flexible Meeting Arrangements

- School meetings may be scheduled at various times or conducted as in-home conferences for families who cannot attend school conferences.
- Meetings, events, and programs are scheduled based on family needs and may be held virtually where possible.

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The Following are Allowable Activities:

Adopting Model Approaches for Engagement

- The district may adopt and implement effective models for Family and Community Engagement.
- Example: NNPS Family and Community Engagement framework available on the NNPS Family and Community webpage at www.nnschools.org/face/

Establishing a District Family Engagement Advisory Council

- A council may be formed to advise on all Parent and Family Engagement matters.
- NNPS currently has a Family and Community Engagement Advisory Council.

Engaging Community -Based Organizations and Businesses

- Community organizations and businesses can play supportive roles in Parent and Family Engagement activities.
- Examples include School-based and Division-wide Resource Fairs, Family Engagement Action Teams, and community partnerships or sponsorships.

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Part III: Accessibility Requirements

To fulfill the requirements for parent and family engagement in this section, local educational agencies and schools must, as much as possible, create opportunities for informed participation by parents and family members. This includes those with limited English proficiency, disabilities, and those from migratory backgrounds. Schools are expected to provide necessary information, such as school reports mandated under Section 1111, in formats and languages that parents can easily understand wherever possible.

Newport News Public Schools provides a variety of interpretation services to support our families, including:

- **ESL Welcome Center** : Offering assistance to English Learner families.
- **Bilingual and ESL Family and Community Engagement Specialists** : Bridging communication gaps and fostering connections.
- **Translation Services** : Ensuring progress reports, report cards, and other essential communications are accessible in multiple languages.

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Part IV: Adoption

PART IV-ADOPTION – This Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Procedures have been developed/revised jointly with, and agreed upon with, parents of children participating in Title I program, as evidenced by meeting minutes.

The Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Procedures were developed and revised on November 22, 2024, and will remain in effect for the school year. These policies and procedures will be distributed to all parents of participating Title I children and made accessible to the community by December 9, 2024.

Signature of Title I Authorized Representative:

Date:

Name and Signature of Parents, Family Members, Students, and Staff Involved in the Policy Development Process:

Name:
Role or Title:
Signature:

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