

# Charleston County School District

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION *Policy Code KB Issued 3/13*

PURPOSE: TO ESTABLISH THE BOARD'S VISION FOR THE INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS/LEGAL GUARDIANS AND FAMILIES IN THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN.

Charleston County **SCHOOL DISTRICT** excellence is our standard

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CHARLESTON ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

March 21, 2016

Dear Parents:

**Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

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Charleston County School District invites the participation of parents and the community as we strive to meet the ambitious goals of our District. The progress that has been made is due in part to the positive contributions made by parents. Parent engagement is vital to the success of the District. Research shows that when parents are involved in their children's education, children earn higher grades, take higher level courses, graduate on time and are able to attend college or begin their careers.

The Elementary and Secondary Schools Act, ESEA, requires all districts receiving Title I federal funding to develop, with the input of parents, a Parent Involvement Policy. The ESEA legislation defines parental involvement as "the participation of parents in regular, two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at schools;
- that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their children."

Please review the CCSD Parent Involvement Policy. It details the District's commitment to involving parents and the community in our schools. It also defines the means by which the District will carry out its obligation to engage parents and the community in decisions that impact student achievement by providing opportunities for involvement in our schools. Student achievement is our shared responsibility.

I welcome your comments and feedback on this policy. Please email those comments and any feedback you may have to [parentpolicy@ccsdschools.com](mailto:parentpolicy@ccsdschools.com). This will assist in the annual evaluation of the policy and help to strengthen parent engagement in the District.

Sincerely,

Gerrita Postlewait

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The board believes it can impact student achievement by improving the quality and quantity of parent/family involvement in the education of their children.

The Charleston County School District encourages, supports and values the participation and involvement of parents/legal guardians and families in the educational experiences of their children. The district recognizes each parent/legal guardian as their child's first teacher and acknowledges the powerful influence of parents/legal guardians on their child's life. Charleston County School District shall develop family-friendly schools, offices and programs that welcome and serve parents/legal guardians and families in positive and supportive environments.

Students learn best when families and schools work together and develop relationships of shared responsibility and mutual support. The goal shall be to meaningfully collaborate with parents/legal guardians of students of all ages and all grades. Charleston County School District recognizes that families are diverse in culture, language and needs, and shall implement strategies to enhance effective school-to-home and home-to-school communications about school programs and student progress.

The district shall assist parents/legal guardians in learning how home environments can support the academic achievement and overall success of students. Parents/Legal guardians and families are encouraged to be involved in their children's learning at home through homework and other curriculum related activities. Communicating the value of an education and the importance of high expectations shall be emphasized. Charleston County School District embraces the responsibility to help parents/legal guardians access and secure educational information, services and opportunities for their children. Strategies such as school-based parent resource rooms, parenting and child development classes, home visitation opportunities and adult education programs shall be offered to support parents/legal guardians. Special assistance shall be provided to ensure that non-English speaking parents/legal guardians also participate as full partners in their child's education.

Parents/Legal guardians make valuable contributions to the educational process and shall be included as participants in important school and district decisions. Parents/Legal guardians are encouraged to participate in parent organizations, councils and clubs at both the school and district level, and to serve as volunteers for classroom, school and districtwide activities. Charleston County School District shall strive to improve the recruitment, training, work and schedules of parent and family volunteers to more fully support students and school programs.

As a priority focus for the district, parent involvement goals, initiatives and evaluation strategies shall be incorporated into the strategic and school renewal planning processes and shall be supported, as appropriate, through the allocation of district and special revenue resources. Professional development opportunities for teachers, administrators and other district employees shall be offered to enhance the ability of schools to effectively serve all students, parents/legal guardians and families. Charleston County School District shall recognize schools with exemplary parental involvement programs and disseminate these best practices throughout the district. The district shall also collaborate and cooperate with businesses, community agencies and faith-based organizations to support the needs of parents/legal guardians and families and to provide services to the community.

The superintendent shall conduct, with the involvement of parents/legal guardians, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent involvement policy.

In fulfilling its responsibilities to the parents/legal guardians and students of Charleston County School District, the board of trustees shall adhere to the mandates of all state and federal legislation addressing parental involvement issues.

Any proposed amendment to this policy shall be presented to the policy committee and the board.

The superintendent will develop administrative regulations, as necessary, to implement this policy and meet requirements of the law.



(Cf. KBB)  
Adopted 4/28/03; Revised 1/23/06, 3/25/13

#### Legal references:

- A. Federal law:  
1. No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, P.L. 107-110 - Sections 1111-1120B.  
2. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.

- B. S.C. Code of Laws, 1976 as amended:  
1. Sections 59-28-100 through 59-28-220- Parental Involvement in Their Children's Education Act.  
2. Section 59-139-90 - Strategic plans to include stated goals and objectives for parent involvement.