

KALKASKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Board of Education recognizes and values parents and families as children's first teachers and decision-makers in education. The Board believes that student learning is more likely to occur when there is an effective partnership between the school and the student's parents and family. Such a partnership between the home and school and greater involvement of parents in the education of their children generally result in higher academic achievement, improved student behavior, and reduced absenteeism.

The term "families" is used in order to include children's primary caregivers, who are not their biological parents, such as foster caregivers, grandparents, and other family members.

Through this program, the Board directs the establishment of a Parental Involvement Plan by which a school-partnership can be established and provided to the parent of each child in the District. This plan encompasses parent participation, through meetings and other forms of communication.

The Goals of this Plan are to:

- Enhance school relationships with Families
- Increase communication between school and home
- Improve the learning environment at school and home
- Improve parent decision making and family advocacy
- Improve collaboration with the greater community

This Plan reflects the Board's commitment to the following:

A. Relationships with Families

- Kalkaska Schools will strive to cultivate school environments that are welcoming, supportive, and student-centered.

Two family coaches work with families within the school setting beginning with Pre-K through the 5th grade. The family coaches use the goals from the Parental Involvement Plan to enhance school relationships with families, effective communication, volunteer opportunities, learning at home, involving families in decision making and advocacy as well as collaborating within the community.

School administration will provide monthly parent discussion groups that take place at various times of the day and night.

- The District will provide professional development for school staff that helps build partnerships between families and schools. ^{1,2}

Professional development has been offered to the Family Coaches through the Reading First Grant. They, in-turn work, with administration and the teaching staff to bring meaningful programs to families and parents

- The District will provide family activities that relate to various cultures, languages, practices, and customs, and bridge economic and cultural barriers. ^{1,2}

Elementary Schools

*Parent/Teacher Conferences (2 times a year)
Parent Surveys
5th Grade Honors Program
Spring Music program
5th grade honors paper
Blazer Bash
Literacy Nights
Parenting Meetings
Newsletters, Progress Reports, Power School for Parents
Afterschool programs for students

Coffee and Donuts with the Principal
Parents involved in School Improvement*

Middle School

*Christmas Concert
All-Academic/Spring concert/science fair,
PTO,
5th grade parent forum/orientation,
Talent show (Christmas and end of the year),
Awards assembly at the end of the year,
Parent surveys twice a year, emails,
Good News Cards,
Website, Mentoring,
SEEDS;
Fall Harvest Festival,

Band and Athletic Boosters,
School Improvement Team,
Newsletters, Progress Reports, Powerschool, KPS
Student led conferences in fall and spring*

High School

Parent/Teacher conferences – over 60% of parents show to the fall session

Band Booster

Athletic Boosters

School Improvement Committee

8th grade Orientation/Registration Night

9th grade student/parent registration and barbeque

Blazer Bash

Senior Parents Association

Senior All-Night Party

College Night for parents with KHS counselors

Financial Aid Night for parents

Parent PowerSchool Access to student grades and attendance – presently over 35,000 log-ins, approximately 10,000 parents, 25,000 students

Senior Awards Night

Senior Breakfast/Slideshow for students and parents

Jazz Band and Symphonic Band concerts

Trout Festival involvement – students, parents, band

- The District will provide coordination, technical support and other support to assist schools in planning and implementing family involvement activities. ²

The District has recently hired Family Coaches that plan and implement a Parent Involvement Program. These Coaches work with school administration to plan and schedule various family events. They coordinate programs for family involvement within the school district as well as parent training classes and discussions throughout the year.

B. Effective Communication

- The District provides information to families to support the proper health, safety, and well-being of their children.
 - *Monthly building level newsletters*
 - *Annual District Back to School News Letter*
 - *Up-to-Date Web Page*
 - *PowerSchool for Parents*
 - *Alert Now Auto-phone dialing system*

- The District will provide information to families about school policies, procedures, programs, and activities. ^{1,2}
 - *Up-to-Date Web Page lists:*
 - *Districts Policies*
 - *Student/Parent Handbooks*
 - *Staff Directories*
 - *District Curriculum*
 - *District Accreditation*
 - *Current News Stories*
 - *General Information*
 - *School Calendar*

- The District will promote regular and open communication between school personnel and students' family members.
 - *Staff phone numbers and e-mail addresses are posted on district Web Page and in building news letters*
 - *All parents can get up-to date information of assignments, grades and attendance through the PowerSchool program*

- The District will communicate with families in a format and language that is understandable, to the extent practicable. ^{1,2}
 - *In all areas of communication*

- The District will provide information and involve families in monitoring student progress; ²
 - *Web-based PowerSchool for Parents*

- The District will provide families with timely and meaningful information regarding Michigan's academic standards, State and local assessments, and pertinent legal provisions; And prepare families to be involved in meaningful discussions and meetings with school staff. ^{1,2}
 - *Through the District Web Page*
 - *Through District Improvement and Accreditation Meetings*
 - *Through School Improvement meetings*

C. Volunteer Opportunities

- The District will provide volunteer opportunities for families to support their children's school activities. ²

Parents and caregivers are provided with opportunities through collaboration with teaching staff, the PTO and the family coaches. Having parents and families feel comfortable within the classrooms and the building is a vital part of building and maintaining both effective relationships and communication

- To the best of the District's ability it will support other needs, such as transportation and child care, to enable families to participate in school-sponsored family involvement events. ²

Learning at home and connecting home to school, especially for our intensive and targeted children is a priority. All children within each of the buildings not only receive curriculum connections to each unit to take home but family events are often planned tied to the curriculum and school improvement goals. Children who need extra support are often provided with targeted and intentional activities to continue to be able to work at home with their families. Some examples include but are not limited to: We Both Read Books, Math Fact Triangles, Elkonin Boxes and sight word rings. Family nights and parents workshops are often offered to parents to show them how to incorporate learning in a fun and meaningful way at home based on their child's skill level. Child care is provided for families at school events when needed.

D. Learning at Home

- The District offers training and resources to help families learn strategies and skills to support at-home learning and success in school; ^{1,2}

The family coaches use the goals from the parental involvement plan to enhance school relationships with families, effective communication, volunteer opportunities, learning at home, involving families in decision making and advocacy, as well as, collaborating within the community. Parenting classes, support groups and book clubs are offered to support the parents in the rearing of children.

- The District supports families in providing a school and home environment that encourages learning and extends learning at home. ¹

The family coaches use the goals from the Parental Involvement Plan to enhance school relationships with families and learning at home.

E. Involving Families in Decision Making and Advocacy

- The District believes in involving families as partners in the process of school review and continuous improvement planning; ²

Parents are involved at both the School and District level to meet on school improvement and accreditation several times each year.

- Families will be involved in the development of its District-wide parent involvement policy and plan, and distributing the policy and plan to families. ^{1,2}

Parents will be involved the continuing development of the Parent Involvement Plan through discussions at various building meetings, Parent Surveys, and on the District Web Page.

F. Collaborating with the Community

- The District will build constructive partnerships and connecting families with community-based programs and other community resources. District initiatives support family involvement with community based programs that encourage and support family participation in their child's education, growth, and development. ^{1,2}

Family Coaches collaborate with district families and various community agencies. Family coaches attend community and regional collaborative meetings to connect with other LEA members and update staff and administration on happenings that have an effect on our school community and families. This information is regularly brought back and shared out at parent meetings, staff meetings and family events. The more resources a family has access to the better prepared both they and their child will be.

Implementation

The Superintendent provides this comprehensive plan to engage parents, families, and community members in a partnership in support of each student's academic achievement, the District's continuous improvement, and individual school improvement plans. This plan will be distributed to all parents and students through publication in the Student Handbook, the District WebSite or other suitable means. This plan provides for annual evaluation, with the involvement of parents and families, of the plan's effectiveness and identification of barriers to participation by parents and families. Evaluation findings will be used in the annual review of the Parent and Family Involvement policy and to improve the effectiveness of the District plan.

¹Indicates IDEA 2004 Section 650 & 644 parent involvement requirements

²Indicates Title I Section 1118 parent involvement requirements

[NOTE: All footnoted (1,2) options are included in this template in order to have a policy that meets the requirements of State and Federal law and program requirements of Title I.]

Sec. 1112, 1118 ESEA
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