

Resolution on Parent/Family Involvement
Adopted November 14, 2005, by the Missouri State Board of Education

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education believes that schools must create an environment that is conducive to learning and that strong, comprehensive parent/family involvement is an important component; and

WHEREAS, parent/family involvement in education requires a cooperative effort with roles for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, school districts, parents/families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education seeks to foster and support active parent/family involvement so that schools and parents/families work together as knowledgeable partners in educating children; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the State Board of Education hereby adopts this policy on parent and family involvement and encourages local school officials to use it as a guide in developing local school district policies.

Parent/Family Involvement Policy

Parents/families of all economic, racial/ethnic, cultural, and educational backgrounds can, and do, have positive effects on their children's learning. The State Board of Education recognizes the importance of assisting school districts in eliminating barriers that impede parent/family involvement, thereby facilitating an environment that encourages collaboration with parents/families and community.

The State Board of Education supports the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of a parent/family involvement plan. Included in this plan are the following six elements and goals:

- Promote regular, two-way, meaningful communication between home and school. Examples: personal visits beyond parent/teacher conferences, electronic/telephone contact, use of translators
- Promote and support responsible parenting. Examples: parenting workshops, parent resource centers, parent support groups
- Recognize the fact that parents/families play an integral role in assisting their children to learn. Examples: parent curriculum night, family literacy programs, and post-secondary planning activities
- Promote a safe and open atmosphere for parents/families to visit the school that their children attend and actively solicit parent/family support and assistance for school programs- Examples: training of volunteers and staff, family activities at school, identifying parent volunteer opportunities in and out of school
- Include parents as full partners in decisions affecting their children and families. Examples: shared parent/teacher expertise on individual students, student academic planning, advisory councils (e.g., technology, nutrition/wellness), parent leadership development
- Use available community resources to strengthen and promote school programs, family practices, and the achievement of students. Examples: utilize the knowledge and skills of

senior citizens, retired teachers, and veterans; encourage education-friendly practices in local businesses; parent information centers; identify links to current, quality resources

The State Board of Education is committed to professional development opportunities for school district staff and leadership to enhance understanding of effective parent/family involvement strategies. The State Board of Education also recognizes the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parent/family participation.