

## **Community Relations**

### **PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

Considerable evidence indicates that meaningful involvement of parents, guardians, and other caregivers in a child's education is a major factor in improving school effectiveness, the quality of education, and a child's academic success. The Ledyard Board of Education believes that closer connections of parents and others responsible for the home care of the children with our schools can result in enhanced academic performance, improved behavior, and reduced absenteeism. Therefore, the Ledyard Public School System will promote an environment in which parents are valued as primary influences in their children's lives and are essential partners in the education of their children.

Teachers, parents and administrators must work together to ensure the success of all students, and communication is a key component in this collaboration. Thus, the Board commits to the establishment of effective two-way communication between all parents/families and schools, respecting the diversity and differing needs of families. Parents shall be encouraged to initiate communication with the staff, and administrative procedures shall include means to facilitate such parent-initiated communication. In addition to school and District-level efforts at keeping parents informed, the teaching staff shall frequently use face-to-face conversation, the telephone, electronic mail (e-mail), and individual notes to parents to keep them apprised of their child's progress. District employees shall ensure that information is communicated to parents in an understandable format. Parents will be consulted with in regard to the clarity, effectiveness and thoroughness of the home-school communications.

Conditions in the home also significantly influence a child's achievement in school. Parents and family members, as their primary teachers, play a vital role in the intellectual, social and emotional growth of their children. Thus, the Board is committed to support parent involvement programs, which include parent education, providing materials and activities that will assist parents/families in supporting classroom learning and their children's academic achievement. Assistance will be provided for parents in understanding the State's academic standards, assessments and how to monitor a child's progress.

To these ends, the Board supports the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of a parent involvement program in each school, which will provide a broad variety of opportunities to involve parents at all grade levels in a variety of roles. The parent involvement programs will be comprehensive and coordinated in nature. They will include, but not be limited to, the following components of successful parent involvement programs:

- Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful;
- Responsible parenting is promoted and supported;
- Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning;
- Parents are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance are sought;
- Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families; and
- Community resources are made available to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning.

The Board supports professional development opportunities for staff members to enhance their understanding of effective parent involvement strategies. The Board also recognizes the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation.

Improved student achievement must be the shared responsibility and ultimate goal of parents, teachers, the school system as a whole and the community at large. All parents/families and educators should make family involvement in education a priority.

Parents are expected to be active participants in the education of their children. The Ledyard Public School System will follow a course of action that will make parent involvement an ongoing process that is viewed as a valuable resource in all children's education.

**Related Policies:**

0000 – Mission and Functions

0200 – Goals and Objectives

1110 – Communications with the Public

1120 – Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings

1210 – School-Community Associations

1312 – Public Complaints

5124 – Reporting to Parents/Guardians

6172.4 – Title I Parent Involvement

**Legal References:**

Connecticut General Statutes

10-4g. Parental and community involvement in schools; model program; school-based teams.

10-220. Duties of boards of education.

10-221. Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures.

Title 20, United States Code, Section 6318 – Parental Involvement (as modified by Public Law 107-110, *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, Section 1118)

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LEDYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Ledyard, Connecticut