

SECTION 6

SCHOOL, HOME, and COMMUNITY RELATIONS

6.1—COMMUNICATION GOALS

6.2—RELATIONS WITH SCHOOL SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

6.3—PUBLIC GIFTS AND DONATIONS TO THE SCHOOLS

6.4—VOLUNTEERS

6.5—VISITORS TO THE SCHOOLS

6.5A—BANNING VIOLATORS FROM EXTRACURRICULAR EVENTS

6.6—FUNDRAISING

6.7—COMPLAINTS

6.8—DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATERIALS

6.9—MEDIA RELATIONS AND NEWS RELEASES

6.10—MEGAN’S LAW

6.11—PARENTAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT – DISTRICT

6.12—PARENTAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT – SCHOOL

6.1—COMMUNICATION GOALS

The single most significant factor in student achievement is the teacher. The teacher's effectiveness is greatly enhanced when supported by the school community as a whole, the student's home, and the community at large. The Arkansas General Assembly and the Department of Education have demonstrated their understanding of the importance of involving such groups by repeatedly mandating their inclusion in the educational system and process. Communication with staff, parents, grandparents, legal guardians, business, and community members is fundamental to increasing their concern for, and involvement in, raising student achievement.

Communication should be two-way between the District and the public. The communications program shall strive to:

1. Increase mutual understanding, trust, and support between the District and parents, business, and the community as a whole;
2. Keep staff regularly informed of upcoming District programs and events as well as noteworthy staff and student accomplishments to enable all the staff to help promote positive public relations;
3. Create and disseminate brochures, flyers, and fact sheets that will help parents and community members better understand school policies and procedures and acquaint them with areas where their volunteer services are most needed;
4. Inform legislators of the accomplishments of the District's students and staff, as well as how proposed legislation could affect the District;
5. Maintain good relations with the news media and provide the media with pertinent news releases; and
6. Increase the participation of parents, grandparents, legal guardians, business, and community members in school activities and programs.

The Board shall appoint committees that include citizens of the community when appropriate to assist the District in the study of issues that may face the schools. Such committees serve in an advisory capacity only and without pay, studying the issues and proposing recommendations based upon analysis. Final action and responsibility shall remain with the District and the Board of Education. All advisory committees shall be ad hoc and shall serve only until their findings and/or recommendations have been presented.

Any committee, which includes among its members a member of the School Board, shall operate according to the requirements of the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act.

The Board shall hold a public meeting, at least annually, to report on the District's progress toward attaining its goals and to review its long-range plan. Those individuals attending shall have an opportunity to ask questions.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-1003 (2)
A.C.A. § 6-18-1005 (a) (1) (H)
A.C.A. § 6-15-1005 (c), (f) (1) (2)
A.C.A. § 6-16-603 (a) (3)
*A.C.A. § 25-19-105
Arkansas State Board of Education: Standards for Accreditation: II (B)(1); III (A); XI
(B) (2)
Arkansas Department of Education: Gifted and Talented Program Approval
Standards: 4.0; 10.03

Date Adopted: 6/26/86
Last Revised: 3/11/04

6.2—RELATIONS WITH SCHOOL SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

The Board recognizes and values the many contributions support organizations make to the District's schools. Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA) and booster clubs work to augment and strengthen the District's educational and extracurricular objectives through the goods and services they provide.

Groups wishing to be recognized as a support organization must have open membership and have their by-laws approved by the school principal, the Superintendent, and the Board. Organizational by-laws shall have provisions that account for the following:

1. The election of officers;
2. The formulation and approval of a budget;
3. A process for making decisions concerning fund raising activities;
4. An audit of all funds handled by the organization;
5. A provision whereby all expenditures are by check; and
6. The designation of a person authorized to sign checks.

School personnel shall assist approved support organizations in their efforts to the extent practicable. Meetings of such organizations, cleared through the principal, shall not be subject to school use fees. Parent-Teacher Associations shall conform to the suggestions outlined by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. School staff members are encouraged to attend and participate.

Fund-raising activities are to be approved in advance by the principal or his/her designee. Prior to the donation of equipment and/or supplies to the school, the organization should seek the advice of the principal to help ensure the compatibility of the donation with present school equipment. All equipment donated to the District becomes the property of the District.

Date Adopted: 6/26/86

Last Revised: 3/11/04

6.3—PUBLIC GIFTS AND DONATIONS TO THE SCHOOLS

The District and the Board of Education may receive monetary gifts or donations of goods or services that serve to improve or enhance the goals of the District. Any gifts to the District become the property of the District and are subject to the same regulations as any other District owned property.

It is a breach of ethical standards and a violation of Arkansas law for any Board member, administrator, or District employee to receive a gift of any kind in return for employment with the District, or to influence the award of any contractor transaction with the District. All personnel shall examine the “reasonableness” of any gift or donation against its potential for real or perceived violation of the aforementioned ethical standards before accepting any gift or donation in the name of a school or the District.

The Board reserves the right to not accept any gift or donation that would not contribute to the attainment of District goals or that would obligate the District to unacceptable outlays of District resources. The administration shall present for Board consideration and approval any gifts or donations the administration deems could so obligate the District.

The Board will strive to honor the donor’s intent regarding gifts earmarked for a specific purpose; however, laws and District’s needs change with time and the District reserves the right to adjust the use of any gift to meet current needs of the educational program.

The Board authorizes the superintendent, or the superintendent’s designee, to act as the District’s official representative for all school-affiliated online fund raisers.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-24-110
A.C.A. § 6-24-112

Date Adopted: 6/26/8
Revised: 3/11/04
Last Revised: June 15, 2017

6.4—VOLUNTEERS

Enlisting the support of volunteers is a way in which the District can expand the scope of resources and knowledge available to enrich the students' educational experiences, while strengthening the relationship between the school and the community. Volunteers can also perform non-instructional tasks that allow licensed personnel more time to devote to instruction.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining a program to coordinate the services volunteers are willing and able to contribute with the needs of District personnel. The program shall establish guidelines to ensure volunteers are aware of pertinent District policies and rules. Volunteers who violate school policies or rules, or knowingly allow students to violate school rules, maybe asked to leave the school campus. The guidelines should also include provision for evaluation of the volunteer program and a method for soliciting suggestions from both the volunteers and staff for its improvement.

Background Checks for Volunteers

For the purposes of this policy, "clear background check" shall mean that a background check was performed, as authorized by A.C.A. §§ 12-12-1601 et seq., and that a potential school volunteer has not committed any of the crimes or offenses contained in A.C.A. §§ 6-17-410, 6-17-411 or 6-17-414, as amended, with regard to both the Arkansas and national background check, and whose name is not found on the Child Abuse Central Registry.

A person wishing to volunteer in a capacity that requires a background check may not perform volunteer r services requiring a background check until a clear background check is received by the District. Once received, a clear background check is good for one year; a background check renewal must be applied for and a clear background check received prior to the time of renewal or an interruption of permitted volunteer service could occur. A clear background check will be accepted of any individual wishing to volunteer provided it was conducted within the timeframe provided for in this policy.

The Application for an initial background check may be made though the District administrative office. The District will incur the fee charged by the State of Arkansas for performing the initial check and any renewal checks.

A person who failed a previous background check may petition the Board for a waiver from this policy's requirement. The petition shall be accompanied by a signed authorization for disclosure of his or her entire criminal and child abuse registry history. In deciding whether to grant a waiver, the board may take into consideration the circumstance or circumstances under which the act or omission leading to conviction or Child Abuse Registry true finding, the age of the person at the time of the act or omission, the length of time that has passed without reoffending, and other relevant

circumstances. If the Superintendent recommends a waiver be granted, the Board may, by a majority vote adopt a resolution providing an exception to this policy's requirement for a time period not to exceed five years. The board must consider this matter in open session, and may not confer or deliberate in closed or executive session. The board shall not have the authority to waive the application of this policy to any potential volunteer who is a Registered Sex Offender.

Clear background checks for school volunteers are required prior to any volunteer service to the school district, school , teacher, or classroom, and all clear check volunteers will be issued special volunteer identification to wear prominently when performing their volunteer duties; no person may serve as a volunteer without wearing the provided identification.

No information relating to the application for or receipt of a criminal background check, including that a background check has or has not been applied for, shall be subject to disclosure under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act, as provided by A.C.A. §§ 12-12-1601 et seq. Requests for background checks and reports on background checks obtained under this policy shall be retained by the district for a minimum of three years.

Legal References: A.C.A. §§ 6-17-410, 411, 414
A.C.A. §§ 12-12-1601 et seq.
A.C.A. § 12-18-909(g)(21)

Date Adopted: 6/26/86
Revised: 3/11/04
Revised: July 18, 2013
Last Revised: June 15, 2017

6.5—VISITORS TO THE SCHOOLS

Parents, grandparents, legal guardians, business, and community members are welcome and encouraged to visit District schools. To minimize the potential for disruption of the learning environment, visitors, for a purpose other than to attend an activity open to the general public, are required to first report to the school's main office. No one shall be exempt from this requirement.

Parents and legal guardians are encouraged to participate in regularly scheduled visitation events such as school open houses and parent/teacher conferences. Additional conferences are best when scheduled through the principal's office in advance. Conferences shall be scheduled at a time and place to accommodate those participating in the conference. Visits to individual classrooms during class time are permitted on a limited basis with the principal's prior approval and the teacher's knowledge.

The District has the right to ask disruptive visitors to leave its school campuses. Principals are authorized to seek the assistance of law enforcement officers in removing any disruptive visitors who refuse to leave voluntarily.

Date Adopted: 6/26/86

Last Revised: 3/11/04

6.5A—BANNING VIOLATORS FROM EXTRACURRICULAR EVENTS

At the discretion of the Superintendent or his/her designee, any person who, in the opinion of the Superintendent, other District administrator, or other District official having knowledge of the event, becomes unruly or disruptive; who goes onto the field or court of play at any District athletic event without authority; or who otherwise becomes unruly or disruptive at any District function may be refused admittance to any or all extracurricular activities on the campus of, or otherwise sponsored by, the North Little Rock School District.

The term of the refusal to admit a person may be for one full school year or any part thereof. In extreme cases, at the discretion of the Superintendent, the refusal to admit a person to extracurricular activities may exceed one full school year. The decision to refuse to admit a person to extracurricular activities does not extend to activities on the campus of a school district other than the North Little Rock School District.

A person is “unruly or disruptive” if his actions are clearly, in the opinion of the Superintendent or his/her designee, in excess of the ordinary and customary enthusiasm or anger expressed as a normal part of viewing or participating in such activity.

Date Adopted: 3/20/03

Date Revised: 3/11/04

6.6—FUND RAISING

All fund raising activities held in the District or in the name of the District must be pre-approved in writing by the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee and the appropriate school principal. Approval will be predicated on the potential for return relative to the time and energy to be invested in the fundraising. Fund raising that conflicts excessively with and/or detracts from student or teacher instructional time in either the planning or the execution of the activity will not be approved.

Neither an individual school nor the District shall be liable for any contract between clubs, organizations and/or third parties.

Student participation in any fund raising activity shall:

1. Be voluntary. Students who choose not to participate shall not forfeit any school privileges. It shall not be considered discriminatory to reward those who participate; and
2. Not influence or affect the student's grade.

Secondary Schools

Officially sanctioned student clubs, spirit groups, school PTAs, or parent booster clubs (including band, choir, and athletics) may only do fund raising in the secondary schools. Student clubs and spirit groups must receive written approval from their sponsor and the school principal before submitting the fund raising proposal to the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee.

Door to door fund raising activities are generally discouraged. If approved, students wishing to participate who are under the age of eighteen (18) must return to their sponsor a signed parental notification and permission form.

Concession rights for the stadiums are reserved for high school band parents clubs. Profits derived from concession operations will be allocated to the high school band programs.

Elementary Schools (Pre-K -5)

Fund raising in the elementary schools shall be conducted by the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), Elementary Choir, Book Fairs, and Sea/Space Camp. In addition, each individual school may have one (1) fundraiser per school year if so chooses.

Door to door fundraising activities are generally discouraged. Students wishing to participate must return a signed parental notification and permission form.

Elementary schools must provide parents or legal guardians of students participating in fund raising programs written notification of the following:

1. Student participation in fund raising programs is voluntary;

2. Students who do not participate will not forfeit any school privileges;
3. Students may not participate in fund raising programs without written parental permission returned to school authorities;
4. An elementary student who sells fund raising merchandise door to door must be accompanied by a parent or an adult; and
5. Unless the school provides supervision, parents must accept responsibility for appropriate adult supervision.

Online Fund Raisers

All school-affiliated (does not include groups with non-profit status such as NLR Wildcat Foundation, NLR Public Education Foundation, or Parent Teacher Association) online fund raising must be approved by the Superintendent, or the Superintendent's designee. The superintendent, or the superintendent's designee, shall act as the point of contact for all school-affiliated online fund raisers. An employee may be disciplined, up to and including termination, if the employee establishes:

- a. A school-affiliated online fund raiser without the permission of the superintendent, or the superintendent's designee: or
- b. The employee as the point of contact for a school-affiliated fund raiser instead of the superintendent, or the superintendent's designee.

Please note that grants such as Donor Choose or the North Little Rock Public Education Foundation are exempt from the rules of this policy. The grant constitutes ownership of supplies, materials, resources and procedures.

A matrix is recommended for online fund raising. Included on the matrix; Amount of money being raised, risk involved, receipts required, how long is the fundraiser; who is in charge – contact info. A stamp of approval should be used showing that the appropriate approval has been received and that the district is aware of the fund raising.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-18-1104

Date Adopted: 6/26/86

Revised: 3/11/04

Revised: 3/18/10

Last Revised: June 15, 2017

6.7—COMPLAINTS

It is a goal of the Board and the District to be responsive to the community it serves and to continuously improve the educational program offered in its schools. The Board or the District welcomes constructive criticism when it is offered with the intent of improving the quality of the system's educational program or the delivery of the District's services.

The Board formulates and adopts policies to achieve the District's vision and elects a Superintendent to implement its policies. The administrative functions of the District are delegated to the Superintendent who is responsible for the effective administration and supervision of the District. Individuals with complaints concerning personnel, curriculum, discipline, coaching, or the day to day management of the schools need to address those complaints according to the following sequence:

Teacher, coach, or other staff member against whom the complaint is directed;
Principal;
Director;
Assistant Superintendent; and
Superintendent.

Other than in the few instances where statutorily allowed or required, student discipline and personnel matters may not be discussed in Board meetings. Individuals with complaints regarding such matters need to follow the sequence outlined above. The Board of Education shall address complaints only after they have been considered by the appropriate administrative level.

Unless authorized by the Board as a whole for a specific purpose, no individual Board member has any authority when acting alone. District constituents are reminded that the Board serves as jury in matters regarding student suspensions initiated by the Superintendent, expulsions, and personnel discipline.

Date Adopted: 12/19/95

Last Revised: 3/11/04

6.8—DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATERIALS

The District shall devise and maintain a system for distributing District communications and other printed materials between the Administration and the schools. Use of the system by employees, employee organizations, or others shall be with prior approval of the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Distribution of printed materials, flyers, photographs, or other visual or auditory materials not originating within District schools to students or staff shall have prior approval of the Superintendent or his/her designee. When appropriate, the District shall distribute information regarding community activities. Distribution of information, collection of materials for participation by students and staff, and actual activities shall not substantially interfere with instructional time.

Date Adopted: 6/26/86

Last Revised: 3/11/04

6.9—MEDIA RELATIONS AND NEWS RELEASES

It is important that the District maintain good relations with the media. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall devise and implement a plan for the release of pertinent information to the media regarding educational programs, awards, or other student and staff achievements, and special events. Schools shall not be required to release information to the media through the District Administration; however, building level personnel are encouraged to notify the District Communications Office of direct contact with the media either by telephone or with copies of written releases.

The District shall attempt, within reason, to accommodate media requests for interviews and shall endeavor to be fair and impartial in its treatment of media representatives.

The release of information to the media shall be done in a timely manner, either by written releases or by telephone interviews, to keep patrons abreast of newsworthy District achievements and shall strive to be factual and objective with personal opinions duly noted.

The Board encourages students and staff to participate in academic competitions and programs. Awards earned in such endeavors shall be communicated to the media. Award recipients may also be recognized at Board meetings.

Date Adopted: 6/26/86

Last Revised: 3/11/04

6.10—MEGAN’S LAW

The North Little Rock School District shall work with area law enforcement in a manner consistent with applicable state law and Arkansas Department of Education Regulations to communicate the presence of a sexual offender. When necessary, law enforcement may contact building principals to provide information concerning registered sex offenders. The decision regarding the school principals to be notified rests solely with law enforcement officials; law enforcement officials-use a rating system to determine who needs to be notified, which is according to the sex offender’s dangerousness to the community.

In turn, building principals should notify any employee who is regularly in a position to observe unauthorized persons on or near the school’s property in the ordinary course of their employment. Employees notified could include any of the following: aides, bus drivers, coaches, maintenance staff, professional support staff, school level administrative staff, security personnel, teachers’ assistants, and teachers.

It is important that school personnel who receive sex offender notifications understand that they are receiving the sex offender notifications in their official capacity and are **not** to disseminate information about an offender to anyone outside the school. If school personnel are asked about notification information by an organization using school facilities, the organization should be referred to the area law enforcement agency that issued the notice.

Persons **not** to be notified, except at the specific discretion of area law enforcement officials, include: members of parent-teacher organizations, other schools, organizations using school facilities, students, parents or guardians of students, and the press. District personnel may inform the press about procedures that have been put in place and other general topics, but may not reveal the name or any other specifics regarding an offender.

A parent or guardian who is a Level 1 or Level 2 sex offender shall be allowed to enter the school campus to attend parent-teacher conferences or any other activity that is appropriate for a parent, guardian, or community member.

Level 3 and Level 4 sex offenders may only enter the school campus in the following instances:

The offender is a student attending school in the district;

To attend a graduation or baccalaureate ceremony

It is a non-student contact day according to the school calendar or no school-sponsored event is taking place on campus;

The offender is a parent or guardian of a student enrolled in the district and goes directly to the school office to have school personnel deliver medicine, food, or personal items for the student;

The offender is a parent or guardian of a student and enters the school campus where the student is enrolled to attend a scheduled parent-teacher conference **and** the offender is escorted to and from the conference by a designated school official or employee.

A Level 3, but not a Level 4, sex offender may attend a school sponsored event for which an admission fee is charged or tickets are sold or distributed if the sex offender:
Is the parent or guardian of or is related by blood or marriage within the fourth (4th) degree of consanguinity to a student enrolled in the public school; and
Notifies the administration of the school in writing at least twenty-four (24) hours before the start of the event that he or she will be attending the event.

A Level 3 and Level 4 sex offender who is the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the district and who wishes to enter the school campus in which the student is enrolled for any other purpose than those listed above, must give reasonable notice to the school principal or his/her designee. The principal or designee may allow the sex offender to enter upon the campus provided there is a designated school official or employee to escort and supervise the sex offender while they remain on campus. The sex offender shall not enter upon the school campus until such time as a designated school official or employee is available.

Copies of the notification from law enforcement should be kept in a secure place accessible to teachers and staff, but should not be posted on school bulletin boards or made available to students or members of the community at large.

Legal References:

Arkansas Department of Education Guidelines for “Megan’s Law”
A.C.A. § 5-14-131
A.C.A. § 12-12-913 (g)(3)
A.C.A. § 28-9-212

Date Adopted: 3/11/04
Last Revised: June 15, 2017

6.11—PARENTAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - DISTRICT

The North Little Rock School District understands the importance of involving parents and the community as a whole in promoting higher student achievement and general good will between the district and those it serves. Therefore, the district shall strive to develop and maintain the capacity for meaningful and productive parental and community involvement that will result in partnerships that are mutually beneficial to the school, students, parents, and the community. To achieve such ends, the district shall work to:

1. Involve parents and the community in the development of the long range planning of the district;
2. Give the schools in the district the support necessary to enable them to plan and implement effective parental involvement activities;
3. Have a coordinated involvement program where the involvement activities of the district enhance the involvement strategies of other programs such as Head Start, HIPPIY, Parents as Partners, Parents as Teachers, ABC, ABC for School Success, area Pre-K programs, and Even Start;
4. Explain to parents and the community the State's content and achievement standards, State and local student assessments and how the district's curriculum is aligned with the assessments and how parents can work with the district to improve their child's academic achievement;
5. Provide parents with the materials and training they need to be better able to help their child achieve. The district may use parent resource centers or other community based organizations to foster parental involvement and provide literacy and technology training to parents.
6. Educate district staff, with the assistance of parents, in ways to work and communicate with parents and to know how to implement parent involvement programs that will promote positive partnerships between the school and parents;
7. Keep parents informed about parental involvement programs, meetings, and other activities they could be involved in. Such communication shall be, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand;
8. Find ways to eliminate barriers that work to keep parents from being involved in their child's education. This may include providing transportation and child care to enable parents to participate, arranging meetings at a variety of times, and being creative with parent/teacher conferences;
9. Find and modify other successful parent and community involvement programs to suit the needs of our district;
10. Train parents to enhance and promote the involvement of other parents;
11. Provide reasonable support for other parental involvement activities as parents may reasonably request.

To ensure the continued improvement of the district's parental/community involvement program, the district will conduct an annual review of its parental involvement policies to examine their effect on promoting higher student achievement. The review shall be done by a committee consisting of parents and other community members, certified and classified staff, and member(s) of the administration.

This policy shall be part of the school's Title I plan and shall be distributed to parents of the district's students and provided, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Notes: If any school in your district receives Title I aid, Federal law requires you to have a district policy covering parental involvement for the parents of students served under the program. Because your district is required to “develop jointly with, agree on ~~with~~, and distribute to parents of participating children a written parent involvement policy,” this model policy is designed to be a starting point to be used in the development of your final policy. 20 U.S.C. §6318 requires the basics of the introduction and the last two paragraphs as well as items-#1 – 7 and #11. Items #8 – 10 are recommended options in the Federal law, but are not mandatory. (A.C.A. §§ 6-15-1702, 1703, and 1704) require each district to develop a parental involvement plan (rather than a policy) in collaboration with parents. The statutes are very detailed, and full of “shalls” going far beyond the requirements of this policy required by 20 U.S.C. §6318. Be sure to have the statutes handy when working out the details of your district's parental involvement plan.

The US Department of Education has correctly opined that this policy (and policy 6.12) are of no use unless accompanied by an implementation plan. Consequently, the ADE's School Improvement office requires districts to have such a plan.

A.C.A. § 6-15-1704(a)(3) requires each school to place a parent-friendly summary of the parent involvement plan as a supplement to the student handbook. The parent has to sign a receipt acknowledging receipt of the summary and return the signed form to the school where the student is enrolled.

Legal References: 20 U.S.C. § 6318
 A.C.A. § 6-15-1702
 A.C.A. § 6-15-1703
 A.C.A. § 6-15-1704

Date Adopted: 3/11/04
Revised: July 18, 2013
Last Revised: June 15, 2017

6.12—PARENTAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - SCHOOL

_____ School understands the importance of involving parents and the community as a whole in promoting higher student achievement and general good will between the school and those it serves. Therefore, _____ School shall strive to develop and maintain the capacity for meaningful and productive parental and community involvement that will result in partnerships that are mutually beneficial to the school, students, parents, and the community. To achieve such ends, the school shall work to:

1. Involve parents and the community in the development and improvement of Title I programs for the school;
2. Have a coordinated involvement program where the involvement activities of the school enhance the involvement strategies of other programs such as Head Start, HIPPIY, Parents as Partners, Parents as Teachers, ABC, ABC for School Success, area Pre-K programs, and Even Start;
3. Explain to parents and the community the State's content and achievement standards, State and local student assessments and how the school's curriculum is aligned with the assessments and how parents can work with the school to improve their child's academic achievement;
4. Provide parents with the materials and training they need to be better able to help their child achieve. The school may use parent resource centers or other community based organizations to foster parental involvement and provide literacy and technology training to parents.
5. Educate school staff, with the assistance of parents, in ways to work and communicate with parents and to know how to implement parent involvement programs that will promote positive partnerships between the school and parents;
6. Keep parents informed about parental involvement programs, meetings, and other activities they could be involved in. Such communication shall be, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand;
7. Find ways to eliminate barriers that work to keep parents from being involved in their child's education. This may include providing transportation and child care to enable parents to participate, arranging meetings at a variety of times, and being creative with parent/teacher conferences;
8. Find and modify other successful parent and community involvement programs to suit the needs of our school;
9. Train parents to enhance and promote the involvement of other parents;
10. Provide reasonable support for other parental involvement activities as parents may reasonably request.

To help promote an understanding of each party's role in improving student learning, _____ School shall develop a compact that outlines the responsibilities of parents, students, and the school staff in raising student academic achievement and in building the partnerships that will enable students to meet the State's academic standards.

_____ School shall convene an annual meeting, or several meetings at varying times if necessary to adequately reach parents of participating students, to inform parents

of the school's participation in Title I, its requirements regarding parental involvement, and the parents right to be involved in the education of their child.

_____ School shall, at least annually, involve parents in reviewing the school's Title I program and parental involvement policy in order to help ensure their continued improvement.

This policy shall be part of the school's Title I plan and shall be distributed to parents of the district's students and provided, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Notes: If your school receives Title I assistance, Federal law requires you to have a school policy covering parental involvement for the parents of students served under the program. Because your school is required to "develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to parents of participating children a written parent involvement policy," this model policy is designed to be a starting point to be used in the development of your final policy. 20 U.S.C. § 6318 requires the basics of the introduction and the last four paragraphs as well as items-#1 – 6 and #10. Items #7 – 9 are recommended options in the Federal law, but are not mandatory. (A.C.A. §§ 6-15-1702, 1703, and 1704) require each district to develop a parental involvement plan (rather than a policy) in collaboration with parents. The statutes are very detailed, and full of "shalls" going far beyond the requirements of this policy required by 20 U.S.C. § 6318. Be sure to have the statutes handy when working out the details of your district's parental involvement plan.

The "compact" is also required to be developed jointly with parents of the children served under Title I.

The US Department of Education has correctly opined that this policy (and policy 6.11) are of no use unless accompanied by an implementation plan. Consequently, the ADE's School Improvement office requires schools to have such a plan.

A.C.A. § 6-15-1704(a)(3) requires each school to place a parent-friendly summary of the parent involvement plan as a supplement to the student handbook. The parent has to sign a receipt acknowledging receipt of the summary and return the signed form to the school where the student is enrolled.

Legal References: 20 U.S.C. § 6318
A.C.A. § 6-15-1702
A.C.A. § 6-15-1703
A.C.A. § 6-15-1704

Date Adopted: June 24, 2010
Revised: July 19, 2013
Last Revised: June 15, 2017