

School District of Lodi
Parent and Family Engagement

No. 811.1
(A) 9-8-08
(R) 12-14-15
(R) 3-10-17

Rationale

It is the goal of the School District of Lodi to “actively engage families as genuine partners in the education of children.” Working as partners, parents and educators can increase student achievement and develop positive attitudes about self and school.

The key factor in the home-school partnership is the relationship between the teacher and the parent. Teachers are an integral component of a child’s education and development. Parents are an essential continuous influence in the learning process of their children. Organizational support from the school board and administrators enables teachers and parents to develop effective partnerships.

We believe that collaboration among family, school and community is essential to quality education. Understanding the needs of our community is necessary to effectively guide educational decision-making. To those ends we will maintain a communication network to maximize the resources of family, school and community.

The purpose of this policy is to result in a more efficient, consistent and effective manner of delivering present practices, as well as generating new ways of strengthening family, school and community partnerships.

Policy

The following beliefs shall serve as the framework for parent involvement and partnerships with the schools:

- Schools will be open, helpful and friendly, and resources should be clear and easily accessible to parents and families in the appropriate language. Parents should feel welcome in the school, and their support and assistance should be sought. Parents are encouraged to volunteer in their child’s classroom or for special school events.
- Communication between home and school will be regular, two-way and meaningful. Effective communication requires school-initiated contact with the parents and parent-initiated contact with the schools where both provide vital information about a child’s strengths, challenges and accomplishments and share their concerns. To effectively communicate, both parents and schools should be aware of issues such as cultural diversity, language differences and special needs.
- Parents will be treated as valued partners in the educational process and be active participants in the educational decisions that affect children and families.
- Parents will be involved in developing School District improvement plans and suggesting changes in district policies.
- Each school building will establish a Principal Advisory Council (PAC) that meets quarterly, in order to gather valuable input from parents. The PAC teams will annually evaluate the Parent and Family Engagement policy. The PAC teams will also take an

active role in planning and implementing family involvement activities to improve academic achievement and student performance.

- Responsible parenting will be promoted and supported. Parents will be linked to programs and resources within the school community that provide support services.

Reference: Procedures for Policy No. 811.1 – Parent Involvement