

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

The School Committee encourages and supports family engagement in education at home, in our schools and communities, and in school governance. The School Committee recognizes the diversity of family structures, circumstances, and cultural backgrounds and respects families as important decision makers in their children's education. The School Committee is committed to the creation of culturally inclusive and effective school-family partnerships throughout the school district and in each school, and believes these partnerships to be critical to the success of every student. The district's family engagement efforts will be comprehensive and coordinated.

The School Committee recognizes that family engagement in education has a positive effect on student achievement and is an important strategy in reducing achievement gaps. The intent of this policy is to create and maintain a district-wide climate conducive to the engagement of families and to develop and sustain partnerships that support student learning and positive child and youth development in all schools.

The School Committee is committed to professional development opportunities for staff and leadership to enhance understanding of effective family engagement strategies. The School Committee also recognizes the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to school-family partnerships.

The School Committee supports the development, implementation and regular evaluation of family engagement efforts that include parents and family members at all grade levels in a variety of roles. The district will use the results of evaluation to enhance school-family partnerships in the district.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for the development of procedures to implement this policy.