

Parent/Guardian Involvement

Policy

The Torrington Board of Education values the importance of creating and implementing opportunities to involve parents and guardians in the education of their children. Research and practice continue to demonstrate that family involvement is a key to closing the achievement gap and leaving no child behind.

Accordingly, the Board of Education is committed to a policy that requires Torrington Public Schools to optimize parental/guardian involvement to the fullest extent possible. Therefore, it directs schools to engage in activities to promote meaningful connections between family and school that demonstrate true partnerships to continuously improve student performance.

The Board of Education directs administration to develop regulations to ensure that all schools demonstrate effective implementation of this policy. Accordingly, the Torrington Board of Education's parental involvement policy includes the Title I schools as required by No Child Left Behind legislation as well as all the district's schools.

Administrative Regulations

1. Each district school shall jointly develop with, and distribute to, guidelines for parental involvement in line with the Board of Education parental involvement policy.
2. Each school shall convene an annual meeting, to which all parents are invited and encouraged to attend, in order to encourage parents to be involved in their children's education and to assure parents of the school's desire to work with them in all aspects of the children's learning.
3. Principal and staff of Title I schools should explain the requirements of Title I as well as the right of the parents to be involved. Title I schools may choose to have joint meetings involving all Title I parents together.
4. Each school shall offer a flexible number and time of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, which Title I schools may support with allocated Title I funds for transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement.
5. Each school shall involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs through established PTO's and Site Councils.
6. Each school shall provide parents with: Timely information about programs and activities sent to the parents in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand; A description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the

forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet; Opportunities for regular meetings (e.g., site councils and PTO's) to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children.

7. Each school shall develop with input from Site Councils and PTO's: A family-school partnership document outlining how parents, school staff, and students together will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement; Protocols for annual discussion of the family-school partnership and how such a partnership helps each child achieve; Coordination of currently established programs at the school level with any additional initiatives for parental involvement.
8. Each school can work to build capacity for involvement by: Providing frequent reports to parents on their children's progress; Ensuring reasonable access to staff and opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate; Working to maintain and the family-school partnership into the larger community to improve student academic achievement; Providing assistance to parents of children in understanding such topics as the State's academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children; Providing materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their achievement, such as literacy training and using technology; Educating teachers, pupil services personnel, administrators, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value of parents' contributions and how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners.
9. Each school shall continue to provide opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

Legal reference: Revised Elementary & Secondary Act (NCLB), section 1118