

**POLICY 1.015**

**5-E** I recommend the Board approve the proposed new Policy 1.015, to be entitled "Parental/Family Involvement."

[Contact: Chuck Shaw, 434-8779.]

◆ **Development**

- This version includes minor amendments proposed at the initial development reading on June 3 and a subsequent minor amendment suggested by a Board member as delegated by the Board on June 3.

CONSENT ITEM

1 **PROPOSED NEW POLICY 1.015**

2 **PARENTAL/FAMILY INVOLVEMENT**

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6 **1. Definitions.-- Unless the context requires otherwise, the following terms have the**  
7 **following meanings in this Policy:**

8 **a. Parent:** **Although involvement of a student's mother, father, or legal guardian**  
9 **is the specific focus of this Policy, the Board recognizes that all persons**  
10 **concerned with the education of students should work together cooperatively**  
11 **to meet the needs of students; thus, as used herein, the term "parent" refers in**  
12 **a broad sense to any of the caring adults who play a significant role in the care**  
13 **of a student enrolled in the School District, such as the student's mother,**  
14 **father, legal guardian, grandparent, aunt, uncle, adult sibling, or mentor.**

15 **b. School:** **As used herein, the term "school" refers in a broad sense not only to**  
16 **the sites providing the customary K-12 program, but also to the**  
17 **prekindergarten, adult education, and community education programs.**

18 **2. Parental/Family Involvement: A School-Home Partnership**

19 **a. The Board recognizes that among the factors necessary to improve learning**  
20 **are:**

21 **i. a sound instructional program; and**

22 **ii. consistent voluntary involvement of parents and other influential adults.**

23 **b. The Board recognizes that parental involvement is a desirable element in**  
24 **effective education, and that student achievement can reach higher levels**  
25 **when parents, schools, and the community work together in a collaborative**  
26 **endeavor to support student learning. To assist with achieving the intent of**  
27 **this paragraph, the Office of Public Affairs shall be available to assist schools**  
28 **in developing and distributing information encouraging parental involvement.**

29 **c. Although parents are of diverse cultures, languages, and needs, they share**  
30 **the desire for the educational success of their children. Hence, the programs**  
31 **and practices established by the District, in collaboration with parents and**  
32 **communities through the school improvement process, shall support family**  
33 **involvement and reflect the specific needs of students and their families.**

34 d. Accordingly, the School Board seeks to actively bring together families,  
35 schools, and the community in the education of children. Schools have the  
36 responsibility to involve parents, and parents have the responsibility to  
37 become involved in the school.

38 3. **Communication.**-- In accordance with Fla. Stat. § 230.23(15)(b), the Board  
39 encourages teachers and administrators to keep parents and guardians informed  
40 of student progress, student programs, student attendance requirements and the  
41 availability of resources for academic assistance.

42 a. Special efforts should be made to assist parents in understanding the needs,  
43 responsibilities, and educational rights of the student.

44 b. Communication with parents should be in the home language as documented  
45 by the TERMS student demographic screen, unless the parent states in writing  
46 that he/she is more comfortable with another language.

47 4. **Family-Friendly Schools.**-- The school building should be a welcoming place,  
48 clearly accessible to parents, consistent with established security procedures and  
49 the principal's authority under the School Code and case law. Parental access  
50 shall not interfere with rights of students, teachers, and school administrators to  
51 have an orderly instructional environment.

52 5. **Flexible Time.**-- The Board is supportive of District employees being given flexible  
53 time to visit their children's schools. Further, the Board hereby encourages Palm  
54 Beach County businesses to adopt practices that promote their employees'  
55 parental participation in education.

56 6. **Accommodation of Parent Schedules.**-- The Board supports flexibility in school  
57 personnel's use of creative methods of accommodating parents' schedules, within  
58 the parameters of the School Code, State Board of Education Rules, and sound  
59 educational principles.

60 7. **National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs.**-- The School  
61 Board endorses the following standards as set forth in the *National Standards for*  
62 *Parent/Family Involvement Programs* as adopted by the National PTA:

63 a. **Standard I: Communicating.** -- The Board encourages communication  
64 between the home and the school that is on-going, interactive, and reasonably  
65 accommodates all parents, including those with limited English proficiency or  
66 disabilities. Interaction with parents should be handled in a non-judgmental

67 manner that recognizes a variety of parenting styles, family structures, and  
68 circumstances; as well as individual differences reflected in the values,  
69 cultures, and diversity of the student population. Regular parent/teacher  
70 dialogue is encouraged at all grade levels.

71 b. **Standard II: Parenting.**-- The Board is supportive of basic adult literacy and  
72 programs on topics such as nutrition, health, self-esteem, parent-child  
73 communication, motivation, discipline, child development, monitoring television  
74 viewing, monitoring Internet usage, assisting with homework, and other topics  
75 that enable parents to be full partners in the education of their children.

76 c. **Standard III: Student Learning.**-- The Board endorses assisting parents to  
77 play an integral role in student learning by providing parents information on  
78 grade-level expectations and their children's progress toward proficiency,  
79 specific activities that can be done at home, and how to partner with teachers  
80 to maximize student achievement.

81 d. **Standard IV: Volunteering.**-- The Board is supportive of the creation of  
82 meaningful volunteer opportunities and ensure that parents are welcome in the  
83 school pursuant to Board Policy 2.53, "Volunteers in Public Schools," and that  
84 their support and assistance are sought.

85 e. **Standard V: School Decision-Making and Advocacy.**-- The Board  
86 encourages the involvement of parents as full partners in the decisions and  
87 practices of the school that affect children and families through the school  
88 improvement process, the School Advisory Council (SAC), PTA/PTO, and  
89 other decision-making groups as appropriate.

90 f. **Standard VI: Collaborating with the Community.**-- The Board supports the  
91 strengthening of school programs, family practices, and student learning  
92 through the integration of community resources and business partnerships  
93 consistent with Fla. Stat. § 230.23005(5). Schools and parent groups should  
94 actively recruit persons to serve as role models and mentors.

95 **8. Parent Resources**

96 a. **Where feasible, schools should set aside space within the building for parents**  
97 **to meet, obtain resource information about parenting, the school system, and**  
98 **specific materials and strategic and strategies to use at home with their**  
99 **children.**

100        b. Schools should seek to identify a parent liaison whose primary responsibility  
101        would be to ascertain the needs of parents and to communicate this  
102        information to appropriate school staff.

103    **9. Office of Family Involvement.--** Consistent with the recommendation of the  
104    Superintendent, the Board will act in accordance with Fla. Stat. § 230.23(5)(a) to  
105    establish an Office of Family Involvement ("OFI"). Establishment of the OFI will  
106    include the Superintendent's recommendation, and the Board's designation, of a  
107    Family Involvement Coordinator, who shall be responsible for:

108        a. promoting parent/family involvement in schools through the school  
109        improvement process;

110        b. maintaining contact with various District departments and community groups  
111        and agencies; and

112        c. facilitating the implementation of this Policy.

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114    SPECIFIC AUTHORITY: §§ 230.22(1), (2); 230.23(22); 230.23005(5), Fla. Stat.

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116    LAWS IMPLEMENTED: §§ 230.03(2); 230.22(1); 230.23(15); 230.23005(5),  
117    231.07; 231.085(1), Fla. Stat.

118  
119    PUBLICATION CITED: *National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement*  
120    *Programs*, issued by the National PTA (1998), ISBN  
121    0-88109-002-6

122  
123    HISTORY: / /2002

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Legal Signoff:

The Legal Department has reviewed proposed Policy 1.015 and finds it legally sufficient for development by the Board.

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Attorney

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Date