



## **POLICY 1.015**

**4-J** I recommend that the Board adopt the proposed revised Policy 1.015, entitled "Parental/Family Involvement."

[Contact: Ira Margulies, PX 45857; Celia Elrod, PX 48446.]

### **Adoption**

### **CONSENT ITEM**

- The Board approved development of this revised Policy at the development reading on February 25, 2009.
- The revised policy re-states certain portions of the previous policy, specifically,
  - Subparagraphs 1a-d, outlining the school/home partnership for learning.
  - Subparagraphs 3a-f, endorsing the National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs as adopted by the National PTA.
- The revised policy establishes Family Involvement Forums to promote family involvement for student achievement. See Paragraph 4.
- The policy incorporates family involvement for Title I programs. See Paragraph 5.
- This revision also updates legal citations and references.

## POLICY 1.015

### PARENTAL/FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

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3 1. **Purpose.** This policy creates a collaborative environment in which the parents  
4 and families of our students are invited and encouraged to be involved. The School  
5 Board recognizes the vital role parents/guardians and family play in the education,  
6 welfare and values of its students, and that the education of each student is a  
7 responsibility shared by the school and the student's parents/guardians and family  
8 members. Furthermore, the School Board encourages the regular participation by  
9 parents of all children to ensure a strong home-school partnership, promote and  
10 increase effective, well-structured, and comprehensive parental/family involvement  
11 practices. This policy incorporates the requirements under the *No Child Left*  
12 *Behind Act of 2001, section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Act.*

13 a. The Board recognizes that among the factors to improve learning are:

14 i. a sound instructional program

15 ii. consistent training and information made available to parents to increase  
16 student achievement

17 b. The Board recognizes that parental involvement is a desirable element in  
18 effective education. Student achievement can reach higher levels when  
19 parents, schools, and the community work together in a collaborative  
20 endeavor to support student learning. Through the support of the Family  
21 Action Network and the responsibility of various departments, parents are kept  
22 abreast of parental involvement topics.

23 c. Although parents are of diverse cultures, languages, and needs, they share  
24 the desire for the educational success of their children. Hence, the programs  
25 and practices established by the Board, in collaboration with parents and  
26 communities through the school improvement process, shall support family  
27 involvement and reflect the specific needs of students and families.

28 d. Accordingly, the School Board seeks to actively bring together families,  
29 schools, and the community in the education of children. Schools have the  
30 responsibility to involve parents, and parents have the responsibility to  
31 become involved.

32 2. **Definitions.**

33 "Parental/Family Involvement" means the participation of  
34 parents/guardians/families in an ongoing, regular, two-way, and meaningful  
35 communication involving student academic learning and other school activities

36 including ensuring that:

- 37 a. Parents/guardians/families play an integral role in assisting their children's  
38 learning.
- 39 b. Parents/guardians/families are encouraged to be actively involved in their  
40 children's education at school.
- 41 c. Parents/guardians/families are full partners in their children's education and  
42 are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees  
43 to assist in the education of their children.
- 44 d. Parent, school, and community partners carry out parental involvement  
45 strategies that are documented in the school's Family Involvement Policy/Plan.

46 3. **Policy.** The School Board believes that the education of children is a  
47 responsibility that is shared by parents, families, the school system and the  
48 community. The School Board respects the roles and responsibilities of parents  
49 and families in assuring that their children are adequately educated, and are  
50 committed to developing a strong, ongoing partnership with parents/families to  
51 create or strengthen stimulating home and school learning environments. It is a  
52 policy of the School Board to encourage and support strong, continuing parental  
53 and family involvement in education, at home, in our schools and our communities.

54 The School Board endorses the following standards as set forth in the researched  
55 based, *National Standards for Parent /Family Involvement Programs as adopted*  
56 by the National/ PTA as follows:

- 57 a. Standard I: **Communicating** - The Board recognizes that communication  
58 between the home and the school that is ongoing, interactive, and reasonably  
59 accommodates all parents, including those with limited English proficiency or  
60 disabilities. Interaction with parents should be handled in a non-judgmental  
61 manner that recognizes a variety of parenting styles, family structures, and  
62 circumstances; as well as individual differences reflected in the values,  
63 cultures, and diversity of the student population. Regular parent/teacher  
64 dialogue is encouraged at all grade levels.
- 65 b. Standard II: **Parenting** - The Board is supportive of adult and community  
66 programs that provide information to meet the need of parents on various  
67 topics such as nutrition, parent- child communication, monitoring television  
68 and internet usage, discipline techniques, homework assistance and other  
69 topics that enable parents to be full partners in the education of their children.
- 70 c. Standard III: **Student Learning** - The Board endorses assisting parents to  
71 play a vital role in student learning by providing parents information on grade-  
72 level expectations, assessment requirements, strategies to improve student

73 achievement, and Choice and SES programs that are available to students in  
74 order to maximize student achievement.

75 d. Standard IV: **Volunteering**- The Board is supportive of the creation of  
76 meaningful volunteer opportunities and welcome parents to take advantage of  
77 the many volunteer roles that are provided in schools.

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

83 f. Standard VI: **Collaborating with the Community** - The Board supports the  
84 strengthening of school programs, family practices and student learning  
85 through the integration of community resources and business partnerships.  
86 Schools actively recruit persons to serve as role models and mentors.  
87 Community partners join schools in its efforts to provide resources and  
88 materials to parents.

89 4. **Family Involvement Forums.** -- Family Involvement Forums are hereby  
90 established within the district to focus on promoting family involvement to increase  
91 student achievement. The Family Action Network Committee operates as a forum  
92 to discuss, support, and carry out family involvement initiatives throughout the  
93 district. The forums will be responsible for:

94 a. promoting parent/family involvement in schools through the school  
95 improvement process;

96 b. maintaining contact with various District departments and community groups  
97 and agencies; and

98 c. facilitating the implementation of the District Family Involvement Policy.

99 5. **Title I Requirements.**

100 a. Schools will show evidence of how families are involved in the planning,  
101 review and improvement of the school's Family Involvement Policy/Plan.

102 b. Schools shall show proof of an annual meeting (Parents' Rights to Know) held  
103 to inform families of the requirements for the Title I program and their right to  
104 be involved.

105 c. Proof of parent- teacher conferences continuously held throughout the year.

106 d. Show how the school has provided materials, resources, and trainings to

- 107 families to improve their child's academic achievement.
- 108 e. Provide documents to show that families were given information translated in  
109 their native language.
- 110 f. Show how trainings and family involvement activities were offered at flexible  
111 times.
- 112 g. Show evidence of continuous communication between the school, families,  
113 students, and community.
- 114 h. Show how the school has coordinated with organizations such as Head Start,  
115 and local, state, and federal agencies to help educate parents in family  
116 involvement.
- 117 i. Provide information of how the school worked with the community, volunteers,  
118 and business partnerships to increase student achievement with information  
119 on career choices.
- 120 j. Show proof that families were informed of the State's academic content  
121 standards, student academic achievement standards, and academic  
122 assessments.
- 123 k. Prove how the school has provided to families a description and explanation of  
124 the curriculum, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student  
125 progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
- 126 l. Provide documentation on how the school provided families with information  
127 about the Title I program in a timely manner.
- 128 m. Show how Title I funds were used to pay reasonable expenses associated  
129 with family involvement activities such as child care, home visits, and  
130 transportation.
- 131 n. Provide documentation of family's dissenting views of the LEA if a school's  
132 Schoolwide Plan was not acceptable to them.
- 133 o. Show that the school-family compact was jointly developed with families and  
134 outline how families , entire school staff and students shared in the  
135 responsibility to improve student achievement.
- 136 4. Parental/Family Involvement: A School-Home Partnership
- 137 a. The Board recognizes that among the factors necessary to improve learning are:
- 138 i. a sound instructional program; and

- 139           ii. ~~consistent voluntary involvement of parents and other influential adults.~~
- 140           b. ~~The Board recognizes that parental involvement is a desirable element in effective education,~~  
141           ~~and that student achievement can reach higher levels when parents, schools, and the~~  
142           ~~community work together in a collaborative endeavor to support student learning. To assist~~  
143           ~~with achieving the intent of this paragraph, the Office of Public Affairs shall be available to~~  
144           ~~assist schools in developing and distributing information encouraging parental involvement.~~
- 145           c. ~~Although parents are of diverse cultures, languages, and needs, they share the desire for the~~  
146           ~~educational success of their children. Hence, the programs and practices established by the~~  
147           ~~District, in collaboration with parents and communities through the school improvement~~  
148           ~~process, shall support family involvement and reflect the specific needs of students and their~~  
149           ~~families.~~
- 150           d. ~~Accordingly, the School Board seeks to actively bring together families, schools, and the~~  
151           ~~community in the education of children. Schools have the responsibility to involve parents, and~~  
152           ~~parents have the responsibility to become involved in the school.~~
- 153       2. ~~Communication.~~ ~~In accordance with Fla. Stat. § 230.23(15)(b), the Board encourages teachers~~  
154       ~~and administrators to keep parents and guardians informed of student progress, student programs,~~  
155       ~~student attendance requirements and the availability of resources for academic assistance.~~
- 156           a. ~~Special efforts should be made to assist parents in understanding the needs, responsibilities,~~  
157           ~~and educational rights of the student.~~
- 158           b. ~~Communication with parents should be in the home language as documented by the TERMS~~  
159           ~~student demographic screen, unless the parent states in writing that he/she is more~~  
160           ~~comfortable with another language.~~
- 161       3. ~~Family-Friendly Schools.~~ ~~The school building should be a welcoming place, clearly accessible to~~  
162       ~~parents, consistent with established security procedures and the principal's authority under the~~  
163       ~~School Code and case law. Parental access shall not interfere with rights of students, teachers, and~~  
164       ~~school administrators to have an orderly instructional environment.~~
- 165       4. ~~Flexible Time.~~ ~~The Board is supportive of District employees being given flexible time to visit their~~  
166       ~~children's schools. Further, the Board hereby encourages Palm Beach County businesses to adopt~~  
167       ~~practices that promote their employees' parental participation in education.~~
- 168       5. ~~Accommodation of Parent Schedules.~~ ~~The Board supports flexibility in school personnel's use of~~  
169       ~~creative methods of accommodating parents' schedules, within the parameters of the School Code,~~  
170       ~~State Board of Education Rules, and sound educational principles.~~
- 171       6. ~~National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs.~~ ~~The School Board endorses the~~  
172       ~~following standards as set forth in the *National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs*~~  
173       ~~as adopted by the National PTA:~~
- 174           a. ~~Standard I: Communicating.~~ ~~The Board encourages communication between the home and~~  
175           ~~the school that is on-going, interactive, and reasonably accommodates all parents, including~~  
176           ~~those with limited English proficiency or disabilities. Interaction with parents should be handled~~  
177           ~~in a non-judgmental manner that recognizes a variety of parenting styles, family structures,~~  
178           ~~and circumstances; as well as individual differences reflected in the values, cultures, and~~  
179           ~~diversity of the student population. Regular parent/teacher dialogue is encouraged at all grade~~  
180           ~~levels.~~

- 181 b. Standard II: Parenting.-- The Board is supportive of basic adult literacy and programs on  
182 topics such as nutrition, health, self-esteem, parent-child communication, motivation,  
183 discipline, child development, monitoring television viewing, monitoring Internet usage,  
184 assisting with homework, and other topics that enable parents to be full partners in the  
185 education of their children.
- 186 c. Standard III: Student Learning.-- The Board endorses assisting parents to play an integral role  
187 in student learning by providing parents information on grade-level expectations and their  
188 children's program toward proficiency, specific activities that can be done at home, and how to  
189 partner with teachers to maximize student achievement.
- 190 d. Standard IV: Volunteering.-- The Board is supportive of the creation of meaningful volunteer  
191 opportunities and ensure that parents are welcome in the school pursuant to Board Policy  
192 2.53, "Volunteers in Public Schools," and that their support and assistance are sought.
- 193 e. Standard V: School Decision-Making and Advocacy.-- The Board encourages the involvement  
194 of parents as full partners in the decisions and practices of the school that affect children and  
195 families through the school improvement process, the School Advisory Council (SAC),  
196 PTA/PTO, and other decision-making groups as appropriate.
- 197 f. Standard VI: Collaborating with the Community.-- The Board supports the strengthening of  
198 school programs, family practices, and student learning through the integration of community  
199 resources and business partnerships consistent with Fla. Stat. § 230.23005(5). Schools and  
200 parent groups should actively recruit persons to serve as role models and mentors.

201 7. Parent Resources

- 202 a. Where feasible, schools should set aside space within the building for parents to meet, obtain  
203 resource information about parenting, the school system, and specific materials and strategic  
204 and strategies to use at home with their children.
- 205 b. Schools should seek to identify a parent liaison whose primary responsibility would be to  
206 ascertain the needs of parents and to communicate this information to appropriate school  
207 staff.

208 8. Office of Family Involvement.-- Consistent with the recommendation of the Superintendent, the  
209 Board will act in accordance with Fla. Stat. § 230.23(5)(a) to establish an Office of Family  
210 Involvement ("OFI"). Establishment of the OFI will include the Superintendent's recommendation,  
211 and the Board's designation, of a Family Involvement Coordinator, who shall be responsible for:

- 212 a. promoting parent/family involvement in schools through the school improvement process;
- 213 b. maintaining contact with various District departments and community groups and agencies;  
214 and

215 facilitating the implementation of this Policy.

216 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Fla. Stat. §§ 1001.41; 1001.42; 1001.43 230.22(1), (2);  
217 230.23(22); 230.23005(5)

218 LAWS IMPLEMENTED: Fla. Stat. §§ 1002.23; No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, P.L.  
219 107-110; Title 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Section 1118  
220 230.03(2); 230.22(1); 230.23(15); 230.23005(5), 231.07; 231.085(1)

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

223 HISTORY: 10/14/2002; \_\_/\_\_\_\_2009



Legal Signoff:

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

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Attorney

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Date