

**POLICY 1.015**

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

[CONTACT: Chuck Shaw, 434-8779.]

◆ Development

CONSENT ITEM

**PROPOSED NEW POLICY 1.015**

**PARENTAL/FAMILY INVOLVEMENT**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
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 involvement of parents and other influential adults.

23 b. The Board recognizes that parental involvement is an essential element in  
24 effective education, and that student achievement reaches higher levels when  
25 parents, schools, and the community work together in a collaborative  
26 endeavor to support student learning.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

62 a. **Standard I: Communicating**. -- The Board encourages communication  
63 between the home and the school that is on-going, interactive, and reasonably

64 accommodates all parents, including those with limited English proficiency or  
65 disabilities. Interaction with parents should be handled in a non-judgmental  
66 manner that recognizes a variety of parenting styles, family structures, and  
67 circumstances; as well as individual differences reflected in the values,  
68 cultures, and diversity of the student population. Regular parent/teacher  
69 dialogue is encouraged at all grade levels.

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

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

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

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

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

93

94 8. **Parent Resources**

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

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

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

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

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

111 c. facilitating the implementation of this Policy.

112  
113 SPECIFIC AUTHORITY: §§ 230.22(1), (2); 230.23(22); 230.23005(5), Fla. Stat.

114  
115 LAWS IMPLEMENTED: §§ 230.03(2); 230.22(1); 230.23(15); 230.23005(5),  
116 231.07; 231.085(1), Fla. Stat.

117  
118 PUBLICATION CITED: *National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement*  
119 *Programs*, issued by the National PTA (1998), ISBN  
120 0-88109-002-6

121  
122 HISTORY: / /2002

Legal Signoff:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date