

NOTE 1: Colorado school boards, other than boards of "small rural" school districts that enroll less than 1,000 students, are required by law to adopt a policy on this subject. This sample contains the content/language that CASB believes best meets the intent of the law. However, the board should consult with its own legal counsel to determine appropriate language that meets local circumstances and needs.

NOTE 2: State law provides that in adopting a parent engagement policy, boards may take into account the best practices and strategies identified by the Colorado state advisory council for parent involvement in education (SACPIE) and the national standards for family-school partnerships. C.R.S. 22-32-142 (1)(a). Further information is available on SACPIE's website, www.cde.state.co.us/sacpie.

NOTE 3: In "small rural" districts where the student population is less than 1,000, the responsibilities for school district and school-level accountability may be assumed by the district accountability committee. C.R.S. 22-11-401 (4)(c). Thus, a "small rural" district with less than 1,000 students should omit this policy's references to school accountability committees if it only has a district accountability committee (DAC).

Parent Engagement in Education

The Board of Education believes that the education of each student is a responsibility shared by the school as well as parents and that engaging parents is essential to improved student achievement. The Board recognizes the need for a constructive partnership between the district and parents that provides for two-way communication and fosters educational support for students and parents. In this policy, the word "parent" also includes guardians and other members of a student's family involved in the student's education.

In keeping with these beliefs, it is the intention of the district to cultivate and support active parental engagement and to set and realize goals for parent-supported student learning.

To that end all district schools shall:

1. Consult with and encourage parents to share in school and district planning and in the setting of objectives through participating in school and district accountability committees.
2. Help parents understand the educational process and their role in supporting student achievement through regular, meaningful communication.
3. Inform parents of school choices and learning opportunities within the district, including but not limited to, information on open enrollment, choice programs and charter school options.
4. Provide opportunities for parents to be informed about their student's progress toward attaining proficiency on state and district academic standards through written materials and public meetings. Information shall explain how the student's progress will be measured and how parents will be informed of such progress. This information shall also be provided to the school and district accountability committees.

5. Provide appropriate avenues for parents to find support in their role.
6. Encourage formal organizations for parents at each school building as well as at the district level. The organizations shall receive information concerning district and school activities and shall have opportunities for input into district and school decisions as appropriate.
7. Encourage and welcome parent volunteers in the schools.

The Board supports professional development opportunities for staff to enhance their understanding of effective parent engagement strategies.

The Board also recognizes the special importance of parental involvement to the success of its Title I, Migrant Education Program (MEP), and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) programs and directs the superintendent to ensure that the district and schools jointly develop with parents written parent involvement policies that meet the requirements of federal law.

[NOTE 4: One of the duties of school accountability committees (SAC) and the district accountability committee (DAC) is "assisting the school district in implementing the parent engagement policy adopted by the local school board..." C.R.S. 22-11-302 (1)(g)(II), - 402 (1)(h)(II). The following sentence is optional and addresses these statutory provisions. The DAC and SAC of a small rural district, however, are not required to increase parent engagement nor are they required to assist in implementing the parent engagement policy. C.R.S. 22-11-302 (3), - 402 (2).]

The district accountability committee (DAC) shall conduct a periodic review of this policy. As part of its review, the DAC shall seek input from school accountability committees and then provide any recommended policy revisions to the Board.

Adopted: May 15, 2003

Revised: March 2010, December 2012, July 2014

LEGAL REFS.:

C.R.S. 8-13.3-101 *et seq.* (leave for parental involvement in academic activities)

C.R.S. 22-7-301 *et seq.* (measures to increase parental involvement in public education)

C.R.S. 22-7-407 (5) (informing parents about standards-based education)

C.R.S. 22-11-302 (1)(g) (duties of the district accountability committee include increasing parent engagement)

C.R.S. 22-11-402 (1)(h) (duties of the school accountability committees include increasing parent engagement)

C.R.S. 22-30.5-109 (publicity regarding educational options)

C.R.S. 22-32-142 (1) (board must adopt parent engagement policy and identify a district employee to act as "point of contact")

CROSS REFS.:

AE, Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishments
AEA, Standards Based Education
KBA, District Title I Parent Involvement Policy
KD, Public Information and Communications

NOTE 5: State law requires districts, other than "small rural" districts, to identify a district employee to act as the "point of contact" for parent engagement training and resources and also serve as the "liaison" between the district, the district accountability committee, the Colorado State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). The district must submit the identified person's name to CDE. C.R.S. 22-32-142 (l)(c).