



Parent and Community Involvement Policy

ReNEW Schools believes in a strong and collaborative partnership between its School leaders, teachers, students, and parents.

The following policy is designed to keep parents informed by actively involving them in planning and decision-making in support of the education of their children. Parents and guardians are encouraged to actively participate in their child's education through volunteering, visiting their child's school, attending all parent conferences, meeting with their child's teachers, participating in school ceremonies, academic and social events and celebrations, sharing concerns and feedback with school staff, and by responding to the semi-annual Parent & Guardian Survey.

In coordination with parents of ReNEW students and other stakeholders in the ReNEW community, this diverse set of strategies is designed to involve the parent community and ensure their voice is meaningfully represented. ReNEW is dedicated to identifying any barriers to greater participation by parents and guardians in activities under this program, with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, and/or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. At mandatory face-to-face parent meetings, families receive this and related policy information, along with a survey requesting feedback on school policies, course offerings, and more. This feedback informs annual updates of this and other official materials.

As of 2023, ReNEW is increasing efforts to include a broader expanse of school community members at our policy meetings, in order to facilitate the inclusion of a variety of viewpoints and allow for open dialog among multiple stakeholders.

Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, communication and feedback take places virtually when in-person meetings are not feasible due to the COVID-19 pandemic, using the Zoom platform or teleconferencing services. Based on family feedback, we know that using multiple forms of communication is important for reaching ReNEW families. Therefore, school wide communication will take various forms, utilizing a variety of platforms. General school wide notifications will take place via the platforms referenced at <https://renewschools.org/20202021-communications-plan> which includes automated phone messages, social media, and communication via our website at <https://renewschools.org/renew-covid19-updates>. In the Spring and Summer 2020, ReNEW increased efforts to ensure all families in our school communities have equitable access to resources related to their child's education, such as through the provision of at-home chromebooks and internet hotspots when in-person education was not possible. Parents are asked in writing and in person about tools that can help their family remain in touch with the school and aid in their student's education. In response to this feedback, ReNEW is currently developing an app for improved ease of real-time communication between school staff and families.

ReNEW schools will focus its efforts in these areas:

Open Door Policy: ReNEW Schools have an open-door policy. Parents are encouraged to visit the school to see their children's classes in action at any time. In addition, as part of the Response to Intervention process, parents of students who are struggling are explicitly invited to sit in on their child's classes and assist school staff with developing positive strategies that involve both the school and the home in improving student performance.

Cell Phone Accessibility: Teacher and leaders are provided a school-issued phone for which parents and students have the number. Allowing students and parents to have a direct line of communication with the school's staff will enable students and parents to proactively address their needs and concerns and reinforces a culture of strong and nurturing relationships. Teachers agree to be on call for one hour per evening.

Targeted Student Reports: Through use of our customized student data management system, teachers can send regular reports of student academic performance, behavioral performance, and attendance on an as needed basis.

Five Week Progress Reports and Nine-Week Report Cards and Parent-Teacher Conferences: Parents are required to come to the school to pick up their student's report cards during scheduled parent-teacher conferences that take place at the conclusion of each assessment cycle. Report cards are generally not mailed home in order to encourage parents to come to the school and visit with teachers and administrators. In order to make these meetings more meaningful for teachers and parents, teachers are given time to prepare for each of these conference days in order to prepare individualized quantitative, qualitative, and narrative reports for each student. Parents have the opportunity to review and discuss school policies at this time. Feedback is encouraged in-person and in writing.

Volunteer Opportunities: ReNEW Schools provides parents with a number of structured volunteer opportunities. These include serving as a library assistant, hall monitor, office assistant, parent communications assistant, cafeteria assistant, and extended day instructor. These roles are matched to parents in a manner that capitalizes on individual strengths.

Parent Events: ReNEW Schools also provide social activities for parents to interact with their student and teachers in a casual manner via such events such as "Donuts with Dad" and "Muffins with Mom". Activities such as Math Night and Literacy Night provide academic-focused opportunities for parents to engage in a social setting with their students and the broader school community.

Further, ReNEW will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary for the planning and implementation of effective parent involvement activities designed to improve student academic achievement and school performance by:

Providing reasonable, regular opportunities for parents and guardians to contact and meet with school staff and teachers to ask questions and express their concerns

Holding regular conferences to provide the opportunity for parents and guardians to discuss their child's academic progress

Notifying parents and guardians of events and opportunities for them to participate in the academic life of their child

Providing opportunities for parents and guardians to volunteer at their child's school

Holding an annual meeting to inform parents of the schools' participation in this program, to explain the requirements of this program, and the rights of parents to be involved in contributing to its design

Making available a Parent Liaison on staff to assist in effective communications between the parent and the school, assist parents with volunteering, student-parent activities, and parenting strategies if desired. The Parent Liaison will also assist in identifying barriers to greater participation by parents and guardians in the activities outlined in this policy.

Coordinating and integrating these parental involvement strategies with those of other programs in service at ReNEW, including Head Start, Home Instruction Program and other State operated preschool programs with the coordination of the ReNEW Director of Early Childhood Education.

Building Capacity for Stronger Involvement

ReNEW-Reinventing Education will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

- (1) shall provide assistance to parents of children served by the school or local educational agency, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the State's academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of this part, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children;
- (2) shall provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement;
- (3) shall educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school;
- (4) shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, the Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children;
- (5) shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand;
- (6) may involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training;

- (7) may provide necessary literacy training from funds received under this part if the local educational agency has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training;
- (8) may pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- (9) may train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- (10) may arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation;
- (11) may adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- (12) may establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under this section;
- (13) may develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities; and
- (14) shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request.

Revision and Renewal of this Policy

Parents and guardians are invited annually to participate in the review and improvement of this policy during parent orientation. ReNEW is dedicated to identifying any barriers to greater participation by parents and guardians in activities under this program, with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, and/or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. Due to current and projected impacts from COVID-19, ReNEW is actively working to ensure all families in our school communities have equitable access to resources related to their child's education. As of the 2020-2021 school year, policy feedback surveys and the semi-annual Parent & Guardian Survey are available on a virtual platform, as well as in-person when allowable. These surveys ask parents and guardians to evaluate, among other things, the extent to which they feel the school is successfully engaging parents in their child's education and learning environment, the quality of the overall school climate, and how satisfied they are with the school's academic and extra-curricular programs. Individual input is requested and encouraged regarding effective ways in which policy, practice, and the survey itself can be enhanced.

As of 2023, ReNEW is increasing efforts to include a broader expanse of school community members at our policy meetings, in order to facilitate the inclusion of a variety of viewpoints and allow for open dialog among multiple stakeholders regarding this policy, as well as other family related plans and events that take

place in our school community. Please contact your school principal with any questions and watch for invitations to planning related events in order to participate in future updates to this policy.

Members of the network and school leadership will consolidate and evaluate feedback, and update this plan and school strategies annually based upon responses, where reasonable and in keeping with regulations.

Signed,



Tanya M. Bryant
Chief Executive Officer
ReNEW Schools

Adoption and Updates

This District wide Parental Involvement Policy was developed jointly with, and agreed upon with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by Parent Orientation Meetings at each ReNEW school held on or before 8/30/2015.

This policy was adopted by ReNEW-Reinventing Education on 9/30/2015 and first went in to effect for the period of July 2015 - June 2016.

This policy was updated in September of 2017.

This policy was updated in November 2018.

This policy was updated in October 2019.

This policy was updated in July 2020.

This policy was updated in June 2021.

This policy was updated in July 2022.

This policy was updated in March 2023.