

PARENT/FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Parent/Family shall refer to parent(s), legal guardian(s), primary caregiver(s), or other significant person(s) promoting the social, emotional and academic growth of the student.

The South Colonie Board of Education recognizes that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and family during the entire period the child spends in school. To support the goal of the school district to effectively educate all students to succeed, the schools and parents/families must work as knowledgeable partners.

Although parents/families are diverse in culture, language and needs, they share the school's commitment to the educational success of their children. The District and the schools, in collaboration with that, enhance parent/family involvement and reflect specific needs of students and their families.

To this end, the Board supports working towards the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of parent involvement programs in each school and at the District level, which will involve parents/families in the decisions and practices at all grade levels in a variety of roles. The parent/family involvement programs to be developed will be comprehensive and coordinated in nature. They will include, but not be limited to, the following components of successful parent involvement programs:

- Communication between home and school should be regular, two-way, and meaningful.
- Parenting skills are promoted and supported.
- Parents/families play an integral role in assisting student learning.
- Parents/families are welcome in the school and their support and assistance are sought.
- Parents/families are partners in the decisions that affect children and families.
- Community resources are used to strengthen school, family, and student learning.

The South Colonie Board of Education supports the implementation of professional development opportunities for staff members to enhance the understanding of effective parent/family strategies. The Board also recognizes the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation.

Encouraging parents/families is essential to improved student achievement. The school district shall foster and support active parent/family involvement.

Adopted: April 6, 2004