

Northwest Middle School

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Partnering with students and their families is essential. We value and honor the role of parents and other family members in their children's educational experience. The following engagement policy, developed jointly with parents, outlines our efforts to support this partnership between school and home. This policy will be updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.

How will information about parent programs, meetings, and activities be communicated?

Northwest Middle School will provide meaningful communication with the parents about student progress via email, phone, written notes, Power School, or media apps and in-person at our SEP conferences. This information and other parent notifications, as well as this written policy, will be written in a format which parents can understand and made available in multiple languages.

What are parents' rights and opportunities to be involved?

Parents have rights to provide input on school engagement practices and to be active participants and decision-makers in not only their own students' educational experience, but in the development of school-wide initiatives through participating in school Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs), serving on our school's Community Council, volunteering at the school, receiving information about school programs, and in having questions answered in a timely manner.

How will Northwest Middle School carry out our plans to enhance and improve parent involvement at the school?

On a yearly basis, parents will not only give input on this policy, but also in developing a School Compact that outlines the roles of teachers, students, and parents in academic success. Parents will also be involved in writing and reviewing the School Improvement Plan (SIP) and the school's LAND Trust plans in the School Community Council. The practices outlined in this document, which is posted on our school website, are supported by building the capacity of each group.

For parents, we provide monthly parent meetings which build their capacity to support their children academically at our SCC meetings. For teachers, we provide professional development to assist them in providing effective instruction and parent outreach. And for students, we provide quality instruction, as well as opportunities for needed interventions. These efforts align not only with best practice, but with the specific academic improvement needs of our school.

How will Northwest Middle School address the targeted needs of students and their families?

Northwest Middle School will provide timely feedback to students and parents on students' academic and behavior performance. Through school behavior plans and systems of support, each student will be provided motivation to learn and try their best. Students will receive 45 minutes of targeted Social Emotional Learning each week. Schoolwide assessment data is shared with parents on our website, in newsletters, at School Community Council meetings. In addition, Northwest Middle School sets high expectations for students. Students work with parents and their teachers to set individual learning goals during SEP conferences. Individual progress reports will be shared with parents at the end of each quarter. Teachers recognize the needs of students and provide reasonable differentiation, scaffolds, and student extensions to meet individual student needs. Northwest Middle School consistently supports parents by updating PowerSchool regularly, by communicating students' needs and the supports being provided, and by offering strategies which parents can utilize to support continued learning at home.

How will parents with limited English proficiency, parents of migratory children, and parents with disabilities, or other special needs have access to opportunities to participate?

Parents will have reasonable access to staff and will have information presented in ways that are timely and in an understandable format. Written communication published on school websites is ADA accessible and can be translated into many languages. Translation for in-person school meetings is available through either in-person or phone translation services. Parents with all language backgrounds and abilities can fully participate in school meetings, school events, in providing input, and in other parent engagement initiatives outlined above.