

ALGONQUIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

Research and practice experience indicates parent involvement has multiple benefits for students and schools. Student benefits can include improved grades and test scores, better attendance, higher rates of homework completion, more positive attitudes towards school, less disciplinary actions, higher graduation rates and increased post-secondary enrollment. School benefits can include improved teacher morale, better ratings of teacher by parent, improved community perceptions, positive changes in student achievement.

Algonquin Elementary School supports parental involvement as both a valuable resource and ally in teaching and learning for our students. We consider parents/guardians essential partners in the educational and psycho-social development of their children.

The building administration will act as the key liaison for parent involvement. The building administration will provide leadership for the development and implementation of a parent involvement plan. Parent involvement may include both school and home activities. The parent involvement plan will include specific attention to obstacles, which preclude parent/guardian participation with intended remedies.

Recognizing that parents are the first teachers, we believe that parent involvement in our school is not limited to, but includes:

- Instilling an appreciation for the value of a sound education and a sense of individual responsibility for learning and achievement.
- Emphasizing the importance of daily attendance, attention in class, completion of all assignments and compliance with rules of conduct.
- Preparing the child for school by building positive home conditions that support learning and appropriate behaviors.
- Attending school/treatment-related activities, functions and events, including parent/teacher conferences, treatment/intake/orientation.

In order to facilitate a collaborative partnership, the school is committed to:

- Involving parents, students, and/or community members in advisory groups and committees at the school level.
- Maintaining an on-going effort to provide parents, students, and the community with information about our school.
- Establishing effective two-way communication with all families, respecting their diversity and various needs.
- Providing multiple ways in which parents, students, and community volunteers can support our schools and contribute to our students' education and well being.

- Developing strategies and learning experiences to enable parents to participate actively in their children’s education.
- Providing support to the school to build the staff’s capacity to effectively involve parents.
- Providing support and coordination to implement and sustain appropriate parent involvement through their child’s attendance in our school and participation in our program.
- Utilizing the school to connect students and families with community resources that provide educational enrichment and support.
- Coordinating the services and resources from other programs to maximize support to the parents and students.
- Annually evaluating the effectiveness of parent involvement strategies to identify and address barriers to participation and to use the results to redesign the strategies for maximum participation.

To provide parents with opportunities for participation in our Title I program and services, the school and administration will:

- Convene an annual meeting to explain the Title I program and to inform parents of their right to be involved in the program.
- Involve parents in the planning, implementation, and review of the school’s Title I program as appropriate.
- Provide information about the Title I program and describe curricula, student assessments, and proficiency levels in a language that parents can understand.
- Provide parents with opportunities to submit dissenting views about the school’s Title I program and parent involvement policies.
- Offer a flexible schedule of meetings.
- Provide support to parents to build their capacity to be more involved in their child’s education and to be able to help their child’s learning at home.
- Create collaborative school-parent-student agreements (compacts) which outline the responsibilities of the school, the parent and the student for a true partnership for improved student academic achievement.