

NOTE: 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: School districts are required by law to adopt a policy on this subject, unless the department of education determines that the school district is rural, based on the geographic size of the school district and the distance of the school district from the nearest large, urbanized area, and the school district enrolls fewer than one thousand students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. C.R.S. 22-32-142(1)(d).

NOTE: The board must work with the parent members of the district accountability committee (DAC) in creating, adopting and implementing this policy. C.R.S. 22-32-142 (1)(a). The board should review the recommendations and revise the policy as appropriate to reflect the district's needs and circumstances.

NOTE: 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.

Parent and Family 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 families. Engaging parents and families is essential to student achievement. The Board recognizes the need for a constructive partnership between the district, parents, and families that provides for two-way communication and fosters educational support for students, parents, and families. In this policy, the word "parent" means a child's biological parent, adoptive parent, legal guardian, or other adult person recognized by the child's school as the child's primary caregiver.

In keeping with these beliefs, it is the intention to cultivate and support active parent and family engagement and to set and realize goals for parent and family engagement in education.

To that end all district schools shall:

1. Consult with and encourage parents and families to share in school and district planning and in the setting of objectives through participating in school and district accountability committees.
2. Help parents and families understand the educational process and their role in supporting student achievement through regular, meaningful communication.
3. Inform parents and families 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 and families to be informed about their student's progress toward attaining proficiency on district academic standards through written materials and public meetings. Information shall explain how the student's progress will be measured and how parents and families 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 and families to find support in their role.
6. Encourage formal organizations for parents and families at each school building as well as at the district level. The organizations will receive information concerning district and school activities and will have opportunities for input into district and school decisions as appropriate.
7. Encourage and welcome parent volunteers in the schools.
8. Create an inclusive culture honoring the lived experience of students, parents, and families in the school and district community.
9. Invest in building trust relationships to strengthen the partnership between students, parents, and families and the school building and district regarding the education outcomes for children and youth.

NOTE: State law "encourages" the board's parent engagement policy to provide staff training on best practices and skills in working with parents. C.R.S. 22-32-142 (1)(b). The following sentence is optional and addresses this statutory provision.

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

NOTE: State law requires districts, other than "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 (11)(c). The following sentence may be included for those districts that are not identified as "rural" and addresses the statutory provision:

The district will identify an employee of the district to act as the point of contact for parent engagement training and resources. The identified person will also serve as the liaison between the district, the district accountability committee (DAC), the Colorado State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education (SACPIE), and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and will facilitate the district's efforts to increase parent involvement within the district. The school district must submit the name of the identified employee to CDE.

NOTE: If the district receives federal funds to support any of the following programs, the board may wish to include the following optional paragraph in this policy.

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 parent involvement policies that meet the requirements of federal law.

NOTE: 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 sentence below 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).

NOTE: In rural district 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 the reference to school accountability committees below if the district only has a district accountability committee (DAC).

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 2006

Revised: December 2013

Revised: April 2021

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-7-301 *et seq.* (measures to increase parental involvement in public 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 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 and Family Engagement [Template for Developing Your Own District Policy]
 KD, Public Information and Communications

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