



BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Department of Communications and Community Outreach



Office of Family and Community Engagement

POLICY 1270

I. **COMMUNITY RELATIONS:** Community Involvement- Parent and Family Engagement

Policy Statement

- A. The Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) recognizes that schools, parents, families and communities must collaborate to support academic achievement, ensuring that every student is prepared for college and/or career opportunities.
- B. The Board values and promotes the engagement of all school, parent/guardian, family and community members as partners in providing a sustainable system of support for the academic and personal success of all students.

II. Compliance

- A. Board Policy 1270, its implementing Superintendent's Rule and school system procedures shall constitute the school system's *Parent and Family Engagement* policy as required by the *Every Student Succeeds Act*.
- B. Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) shall comply with the requirements of the parent and family engagement provisions of the *Every Student Succeeds Act*.
- C. In accordance with the law, BCPS will:
 - 1. Include parents and family members in its annual review and evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this policy in improving the academic quality of all BCPS schools as well as the school system's parent and family engagement programs; and
 - 2. Involve parents and family members from Title I schools in the development, implementation and annual review of the content and effectiveness of the Title I parent involvement plan in improving the academic quality of the schools served with Title I, Part A funds.

III. Implementation

The Board directs the Superintendent to implement this policy.



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RULE 1270

Purpose

- A. Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) promotes meaningful partnerships among schools, parents, family caregivers and the community at large. Effective partnerships foster and enhance student achievement through parent, family, business and community involvement.
- B. To implement the Board of Education of Baltimore County's (Board) Parent and Family Engagement policy by establishing a strong, effective and equitable system of parent and family engagement in BCPS schools.

Definitions

A. **Family**

Means a child's primary care-giving unit.

B. **Parent**

For the purpose of this policy, parent means: the parent, legal guardian or custodian, foster parent or person acting in the absence of the parent or guardian.

C. **Parental Involvement**

Means the participation of parents and families in regular, two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic progress and other school activities, to ensure:

1. That parents/families play an integral role in assisting their children's learning;
2. That parents/families are encouraged to be actively engaged in their children's education at home and at school; and
3. That parents/families are full partners in their children's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their children.

D. **Partnership**

Means an association of two or more parties taking part in some activity in common with one another or others, working toward the same goals.



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RULE 1270 (cont.)

Guidelines

The Superintendent will designate appropriate staff to ensure, through available means, including, but not limited to, community surveys, stakeholder results and community focus groups that the following practices are implemented to support parent, family and community involvement:

Communicating

- A. Publicize the school's commitment to parent, family and community engagement.
- B. Promote two-way communication that is clear and understandable between school and home concerning school programs and student progress.
- C. Provide information to parents, families and community members on the processes for addressing concerns and disseminate this information using a variety of means; such as, but not limited to, newsletters, school-parent orientation programs, school system Web sites and the BCPS Parent University and social media.

Parenting

Help parents and families reinforce the skills taught at school and foster conditions such as safe, healthy and nurturing environments that support student learning.

Student Learning

Provide opportunities for parents, families and community members to develop and refine the knowledge and skills needed to support student academic achievement, including activities and resources that connect to what students are learning in the classroom.

Volunteering

- A. Recruit, train and recognize parents, families and community members as volunteers.
- B. Promote effective use of volunteers.

School Decision-Making and Advocacy

- A. Make parent and family engagement an integral component of school progress development.
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RULE 1270 (cont.)

- B. Support parents and families as decision-makers and promote and include their leadership in advisory and advocacy roles by:
 - 1) Inviting and supporting parent and family participation in committees; such as, but not limited to, school improvement teams, citizens advisory committees, area education advisory committees, action teams and character education committees.
 - 2) Communicating regularly, including providing timely notice of meeting times, locations and agendas.

Collaborating with the Community

- A. Work proactively and cooperatively with community agencies that provide assistance to students as well as to parents and families.
- B. Develop partnerships with businesses and community organizations to promote student success.

Building Partnerships

- A. Provide a safe and inviting environment where parent, family and community engagement is valued and respected.
- B. Encourage the use of educational opportunities and resources to support effective parent, family and community involvement through available school and community resources.

Compliance

- A. All school-based and central office staff shall comply with the *Parent and Family Engagement Policy* and this Rule by implementing the key actions regarding parent and family engagement in the educational process to meet the strategic initiatives outlined in the vision and mission of the school system.
 - B. Schools shall involve all parents and family members, regardless of their educational attainment, race/ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, primary language, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity (including gender expression) or disability.
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RULE 1270 (cont.)

- C. The Office of Family and Community Engagement and the Office of Title I will annually convene a group of parents, family members and community stakeholders to evaluate the content and effectiveness of the school system's *Parent and Family Engagement Policy* and this Rule in improving the academic quality of all BCPS schools. This group shall include a representation of parents and families from Title I schools.
- D. The Office of Title I shall involve parents and family members from Title I schools in the development, implementation and annual review of the content and effectiveness of the Title I parent involvement plan in improving the academic quality of the schools served with Title I, Part A funds.

Definition: Policies and Rules

Policy: A policy is a statement of the vision, goals, principles or position of the Board of Education to guide and direct the Superintendent and the staff.

Rule: A rule is issued by the Superintendent of Schools to implement the policies of the Board of Education to establish the manner in which the Board policies are to be executed.

View the Parent University show on BCPS-TV,
Baltimore County Public School's own award-winning cable channel.
You can watch on Comcast Channel 73 or Verizon FIOS Channel 34.