

Book	Policy Manual
Section	900 Community
Title	Community Engagement
Code	910
Status	First Reading
Last Revised	September 28, 2021

Purpose

The purpose of community engagement is to create a collaborative environment in which students, parents/guardians, families, residents, businesses, and community organizations are encouraged and invited to be involved stakeholders in the school community. Such engagement strengthens broad-based community support for the school's mission, goals, operations and educational programs.

Definition

Community engagement is defined as an ongoing collaborative process in which the school works with the public to build understanding, guidance, and active support for the education of students in the community.

Authority

The Joint Operating Committee endorses the concept that community engagement is essential for the school and the community to maintain mutual understanding, respect and trust, and to work together to improve the quality of education for students. The Joint Operating Committee intends, through this two-way communication, to identify the community's concerns, needs and suggestions, and to be responsive to the community through the actions of the Joint Operating Committee.

The Joint Operating Committee also recognizes that the public offers resources of training and experience useful to the school. The quality of the school's operations and programs can be strengthened when these resources are used in an advisory capacity.

The Joint Operating Committee, with assistance from the administration, shall determine the appropriate strategy when utilizing the community engagement process.

The Joint Operating Committee, in consultation with the Director, shall identify a team of individuals who will be responsible for developing, implementing and delivering a community engagement program.

After the community engagement process is concluded, the Joint Operating Committee shall make the final decision regarding an issue.

The Joint Operating Committee shall annually assess the effectiveness of the community engagement program.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Joint Operating Committee directs the administration to develop and implement a planned program of community engagement that regularly provides opportunities for students, parents/guardians, families, residents, businesses and community organizations to participate in dialogue and decision-making related to school issues.

The administration shall develop and use varied, effective communication methods to ensure that all community members receive information about school programs and the available opportunities to become actively involved.

Guidelines

The Joint Operating Committee and administration shall give substantial weight to the input received from the community. When evaluating the community's suggestions, the Joint Operating Committee and administration will consider the impact on the school's goals, operations, programs, and financial resources. Recommendations made by the community shall not reduce the authority or responsibility of the Joint Operating Committee, which may accept or reject such recommendations.

The school shall communicate to the community the decision of the Joint Operating Committee and its rationale regarding an issue involving community engagement.