

Woonsocket Education Department Parental Involvement Policy - 2008-2009

P8-3.4 Parent's and Family's Role in the Woonsocket Education Department and Its Schools:

- a. **Philosophy:** The Woonsocket Education Department believes that parents *and families* are the first and most influential teachers of their children. For this reason, they must be actively involved in all aspects of the learning process. Most importantly, parents *and families* must serve with the schools as role models encouraging a positive attitude about learning.

In their role as advocates for their children, parents *and families* know best what their child's needs are. The responsibility to meet the child's educational needs must be shared equally between parents *and families*, teachers, administrators, and the community to ensure that all children are educated to their fullest potential.

- b. **Roles:** The Woonsocket Education Department fully supports parent/*family*-initiated interactions with all staff *within the guidelines of safety and security policies of the Woonsocket Education Department* to encourage as much parent/*family* input as possible in the education process. It is the firm belief of the Woonsocket Education Department that the more actively involved parents *and families* are in the education process, the greater the academic success of each child.
- 1) Parents and families are encouraged and, *whenever* possible, expected to:
 - a) *Assist in getting their child to school on time and ready to learn.*
 - b) Help with the child's academic responsibilities at home.
 - c) Extend the educational experience beyond the school to the home.
 - d) *Collaborate with teachers on student goals.*
 - e) Get to know their child's school, its aims and its attitudes towards family values and beliefs.
 - f) Be involved in the classroom with teachers, administrators, and peers.
 - g) *Visit the school and district websites as a means of becoming better informed about the schools and their activities.*
 - h) *Inform the school and bus driver/monitor of any medical condition so adequate preparation may be made in case of emergency.*
 - i) *Inform the school of any changes in telephone numbers, address, and/or changes in emergency contact information.*
 - j) Be present at school-sponsored meetings and functions whenever possible.
 - k) Volunteer where needed.
 - l) *Attend Parent/Teacher conferences and meetings as scheduled*
 - m) *Serve as representatives to school and district teams and committees' including, but not limited to, District Strategic Planning Committee, curriculum committees, Title I committees, School Improvement Teams, advisory councils.*
 - n) Be aware of the curriculum and community resources available.
 - o) Get together with other parents *and families* around common issues.
 - p) Participate in the political process of public education.
 - q) Have a say in shaping the direction of education, e.g. school improvement teams, future planning, policy issues, advisory councils.

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- 2) *Educators* in the Woonsocket Education Department *pledge*:
- a) *Learn about parents' and families' goals for their child as well as family circumstances and culture, seeking and acknowledging parents' and families' perspectives and suggestions with regard to their child's learning.*
 - b) Welcome parents *and families* into policy-making decisions
 - c) Give parents a voice in policy decisions.
 - d) *Communicate regularly with parents and families using a variety of tools including, but not limited to, monthly newsletters, email, listservs, phone contacts, home visits, websites.*
 - e) *Allocate regular faculty meeting time to discuss parent and family involvement, involvement practices that have been successful in the school, and information from other sources on new ideas.*
 - f) *Encourage, empower, and collaborate with parents and families as active partners in the classroom setting.*
 - g) Be aware of community resources available.
 - h) *Actively participate in school-sponsored meetings and functions, as well as parent/teacher activities (e.g. PTO, PTA, advisory councils, School Improvement Teams).*
 - i) *Actively seek parent/family and community representation on school and district teams and committees including, but not limited to, District Strategic Planning Committee, curriculum committees, Title I committees, School Improvement Teams, advisory councils.*
 - j) Support parents *and families* having a say in shaping the direction of education, e.g. school improvement teams, future planning and policy issues.

* Developed with acknowledgement of the work of Dr. Kathleen Hoover-Dempsey, Associate Professor of Psychology, Peabody College, and Chair of the Department of Psychology and Human Development; Associate Professor of Education.

Sign off sheet below: Please cut on dotted line and send back to school with student.

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SIGN OFF SHEET – RETURN TO SCHOOL

PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY SIGNATURE/APPROVAL

To Parent /Guardian: I have read and agree to uphold the Parent Involvement Policy.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

School