

CUMBERLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOOL-COMMUNITY RELATIONS	KM
School Community Relations Policy	KMK

Page 1 of 2

The Cumberland Public Schools understands that engaging parents in the education process is essential to improve academic success for students. It further recognizes that a child’s education is a responsibility shared by the school and the family during the entire time a child attends school. Therefore, Cumberland Public Schools shall foster and support active parent involvement so that schools and parents work together as knowledgeable partners in educating children.

Although parents may be diverse in culture, language, and needs, they share the school’s commitment to the educational success of their children. We recognize the responsibility to eliminate barriers that impede family involvement and create an environment supportive of comprehensive family involvement programs that are developed in collaboration with parents.

Our commitment to this process will include such areas as:

- Fostering communication between home and school that is regular, two-way, and meaningful.
- Supporting responsible parenting
- Parents playing an integral role in assisting student learning
- Welcoming parents to the school seeking their support and assistance
- Creating full partnerships with parents in decisions that affect children and families
- Making community resources available to strengthen school programs, family practices and student learning.

The Cumberland Public Schools is committed to professional development opportunities for staff to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies. We also recognize the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parent participation.

On a regular basis, parents will participate in an evaluation of the content and effect of this policy on student success. The evaluation will be used to improve and/or create practices to enhance parent involvement.

Parents will be notified (as necessary) by letter of:

- School improvement status
- Public school choice
- School Community Relations Policy
- Information regarding professional qualifications of their children’s teachers, and of paraprofessionals who provide instructional services to their children
- Informing parents if their child is assigned to or being taught by a teacher in core academic subjects who is not highly qualified for four (4) or more consecutive weeks.

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Page 2 of 2

Title I Schools will annually:

- Inform parents of Title I programs
- Create parent-school compacts.

Further, the school department will periodically review the effectiveness of parental involvement through S.A.L.T. information and School Improvement Teams and update the policy as a result of this periodic review.

The Cumberland Public Schools will make every effort to communicate with parents using a multi-language approach, in writing and orally, as appropriate.

First Reading by Cumberland School Committee – May 25, 2006

Second Reading and Approved by Cumberland School Committee – June 8, 2006