

Hobgood Charter School

Policy: Parental Involvement

The board recognizes the critical role of parents in the education of their children and in the school. The board directs the lead administrator/principal to develop programs that will promote and support parental involvement in student learning and achieve at school and at home and encourage successful progress toward graduation. Each parent is encouraged to learn about the educational program, the educational goals and objectives of the school, and his or her own child's progress. The board also encourages parents to participate in activities designed by school personnel to involve them, such as parent conferences, in order to encourage effective communication.

The board directs the lead administrator/principal or designee to develop a parental involvement plan as a part of the school improvement plan. This plan must include, at a minimum, efforts that meet the requirements established in this policy. In addition, the plan must include ways to enhance parental involvement in the following areas:

1. meaningful two-way communication between home and school;
2. promotion of responsible parenting;
3. involvement of parents and guardians in student learning;
4. promotion of volunteering;
5. involvement of parents and guardians in school decisions that affect children and families;
6. parental training;
7. community collaboration; and
8. promotion of student health awareness.

A. Parent Communication and Conferences

The board encourages school personnel to have regular contact with parents for commendation as well as for notification of concerns. The lead administrator/principal or designee shall plan for periodic communication with parents. Teachers are responsible for scheduling conferences with parents.

The lead administrator/principal or designee shall strive, through oral and written communication or other means, to include the parents of students identified as at-risk in the implementation and review of academic and/or behavioral interventions for their children.

The lead administrator/principal or designee shall provide the parent of each student in kindergarten, first, or second grade with written notification of the student's reading progress. The notice will be provided three times a year, following each benchmark assessment and will include: (1) assessment results, (2) whether the child may not reach reading proficiency by the end of third grade; and (3) instructional support activities for use at home.

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The board encourages the lead administrator/principal to work with local business leaders, including the local chamber of commerce, to encourage employers to adopt as part of their stated personnel policies time for employees who are parents or guardians to attend conferences with their child's teacher.

B. Parental Notification

The lead administrator/principal shall effectively notify parents of the following:

1. parental rights related to student records;
2. student behavior policies, the Code of Student Conduct, and school standards and rules
3. the permissible use of seclusion and restraint;
4. policy related to discrimination, harassment, and bullying complaint procedure;
5. student and parent grievance procedure;
6. dates of state-mandated tests that students will be required to take during that school year, how the results from the tests will be used, and whether each test is required by the State Board of Education or by the local board;
7. grading practices that will be followed at the school;
8. available opportunities and the enrollment process for students to take advanced courses and information explaining the value of taking advanced courses;
9. a clear and concise explanation of the North Carolina testing and accountability system that includes all information required by federal law;
10. the performance of the school on academic assessments as compared to the state as a whole;
11. the grade earned by the school on the most recent annual report card issued by the State Board of Education if the grade was a D or F;
12. information about meningococcal meningitis and influenza, including the causes, symptoms and vaccines, how the diseases are spread, and places where parents and guardians may obtain additional information and vaccinations for their children;
13. for parents of students in grades 5-8, information about cervical cancer, cervical dysplasia, and human papillomavirus, including the causes and symptoms of these diseases, how they are transmitted, how they may be prevented by vaccination, including the benefits and possible side effects of vaccination, and places parents and guardians may obtain additional information and vaccinations for their children;
14. how to reach school officials during non-school hours;
15. information about the school lunch program;
16. for parents of children with disabilities, procedural safeguards
17. their right to take four hours of unpaid leave from their jobs every year in order to volunteer in their child's school as stated in G.S. 95-28.3

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18. that the school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age;

C. Opportunities to Withhold Consent/Opt Out

As part of the annual notification described above, parents will be effectively notified that they may opt out of any of the following:

1. release of student directory information about their child for school purposes or to outside organizations
2. their child's participation in curricula related to (a) prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS; (b) avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy; or (c) reproductive health and safety education. A copy of the materials that will be used in these curricula will be available in the school media center during the school year and at other times that the media center is available to the public.
3. their child's participation in academic or career guidance or personal or social counseling services of a generic nature offered to groups of students (e.g., peer relations strategies). However, parental notification and permission are not required for: (a) short-duration academic, career, personal or social guidance and counseling and crisis intervention that is needed to maintain order, discipline or a productive learning environment; (b) student-initiated individual or group counseling targeted at a student's specific concerns or needs; and (c) counseling if child abuse or neglect is suspected;
4. their child's participation in any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is: (a) required as a condition of attendance; (b) administered and scheduled in advance by school administration; and (c) not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of students.
5. release of their child's free and reduced-price meal information to State Medicaid or State children's health insurance program (SCHIP)

Any parent or legal guardian who wishes to opt out/withhold consent must do so in writing after receiving notice. Otherwise, consent to the programs or activities is presumed. After annual notification, the school is not required to provide further notice to the parent or legal guardian as to the manner in which student directory information is used, the curriculum is provided, or guidance programs are made available.

D. Parental Permission Required

Written parental permission is required prior to the following activities:

1. the administration of medications to students by employees of the school;

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2. the release of student records that are not considered directory information, unless the release is allowed or required by law;
3. off-campus trips;
4. students' participation in high-impact or high-risk sports or extracurricular activities;
5. all decisions or actions as required by the IDEA with regard to providing special education or related services to students with disabilities;
6. certain health services, as required by law;
7. participation in a mental health assessment or mental health services under circumstances prescribed by federal law;
8. students' participation in programs or services that provide information about where to obtain contraceptives or abortion referral services;
9. students' participation in surveys funded by the Department of Education that are conducted concerning protected topics;
10. disclosure of students' free and reduced price lunch eligibility information or eligibility statute.

This policy will be amended to include further requirements should Title 1 funding be made available to the school.

Legal References: Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended, 20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.; 34 C.F.R. pt. 200; Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, 34 C.F.R. pt. 99; Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, 20 U.S.C. 1232h, 34 C.F.R. pt. 98; Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC 1400, et seq.; Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, 15 U.S.C. 2641, et seq.; McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 11431, et seq.; 42 U.S.C. 1758, 7 C.F.R. pt. 245; 42 U.S.C. 1758b; Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. 7905, 34 C.F.R. 108.9; 20 U.S.C. 7908; G.S. 90-21.1, -95-28.3; -115C-47(47), -47(51), -47(54), -47(58), -81.25, -81.30, -105.41, -109.1, -174.26(d)-307(c), -375.4, -390.2, -391.1, -407.16; State Board of Education Policies KNEC-002, PRNT-000, TEST-001