**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT** *Policy Code:* **4002/1310**

The board recognizes the critical role of parents in the education of their children and success of the school. The board directs the executive director to develop programs that will promote and support parental involvement in student learning and achievement 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 NERSBA, and his or her own child’s progress. The board 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 executive director 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.

This policy applies to the parents, legal guardians, and legal custodians of scholars who are under 18 years old and are not married.

1. **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 principal shall plan for periodic communication with parents. Teachers are responsible for scheduling conferences with parents.

The principal shall strive, through oral or written communication or other means, to include the parents of scholars identified as at-risk in the implementation and review of academic and/or behavioral interventions for their children, in accordance with policy 3405, Scholars at Risk of Academic Failure.

The board encourages the executive director to work with local business leaders, including the local chambers 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 teachers.

1. **Parental Notification**

The principal shall notify parents of all parental rights and other required information regarding Title I schools and programs, in accordance with federal law. Parents shall receive a copy of the school’s Title I parent and family engagement policy (policy 1320/3560) and parent involvement plan.

In addition, the principal shall annually notify parents of the following:

1. parental rights related to student records (see policy 4700, Student Records);
2. parental rights related to student surveys (see policy 4720, Surveys of Scholars);
3. the approximate dates of any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is: (a) required as a condition of attendance, (b) administered and scheduled in advance by the school administration, and (c) not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of scholars;
4. the schedule of pesticide use on school property and their right to request notification of nonscheduled pesticide use (see policy 9205, Pest Management);
5. student behavior policies, the Code of Student Conduct, and school standards and rules (see policies in the 4300 series);
6. the permissible use of seclusion and restraint in the school (see regulation 4302-R, Rules for Use of Seclusion and Restraint in Schools);
7. policy 1720/4015/7225, Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying Complaint Procedure;
8. policy 1740/4010, Student and Parent Grievance Procedure;
9. the dates of the school-wide and state-mandated tests that scholars will be required to take during that school year, how the results from the tests will be used and the consequences thereof, and whether each test is required by the State Board of Education or by the NERSBA Board of Directors;
10. grading practices that will be followed at the school and the method of computing the grade point averages that will be used for determining class rank (see policies 3400, Evaluation of Student Progress, and 3450, Class Rankings);
11. available opportunities and the enrollment process for scholars to take advanced courses and information explaining the value of taking advanced courses;
12. a clear and concise explanation of the North Carolina testing and accountability system that includes all information required by federal law;
13. a report containing information about the NERSBA, including, but not limited to:
    * 1. the following information both in the aggregate and disaggregated by category: student achievement, graduation rates, performance on other school quality and/or student success indicators, the progress of scholars toward meeting long-term goals established by the state, student performance on measures of school climate and safety, and, as available, the rate of enrollment in post-secondary education;
      2. the performance of NERSBA on academic assessments as compared to the state as a whole;
      3. the percentage and number of scholars who are:
         1. assessed,
         2. assessed using alternate assessments,
         3. involved in preschool and accelerated coursework programs, and
         4. English learners achieving proficiency;
      4. the per pupil expenditures of federal, state, and local funds; and
      5. teacher qualifications.
14. the grade awarded to NERSBA on the most recent annual report card issued for it by the State Board of Education;
15. supportive services available to scholars, including guidance, counseling and health services (see policy 3610, Counseling Program);
16. 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;
17. 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;
18. how to reach school officials in emergency situations during non-school hours;
19. information about and an application form for free and reduced price meals and/or free milk (see policy 6225, Free and Reduced Price Meal Services);
20. information about the school breakfast program;
21. information about the availability and location of free summer food service program meals for scholars when school is not in session;
22. for parents of children with disabilities, procedural safeguards (see also policy 1730/4022/7231, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities);
23. education rights of homeless scholars (see policy 4125, Homeless Scholars);
24. the content and implementation of the local school wellness policy (see policy 6140, Student Wellness);
25. 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 (see policy 5015, School Volunteers);
26. that NERSBA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age (see policies 1710/4021/7230, Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying, and 1730/4022/7231, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities);
27. that NERSBA provides equal access to its facilities, programs and activities to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups (see policy 1710/4021/7230, Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying); and
28. the availability of and the process for requesting a waiver or reduction of student fees (see policy 4600, Student Fees).
29. **Opportunities to Withhold Consent/Opt Out**

As a 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 (see policy 4700, Student Records);
2. release of their child’s name, address, and telephone listing to military recruiters or institutions of higher education (see policy 4700, Student Records);
3. their child’s participation in curricula related to (a) prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS); (b) avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy; or (c) reproductive health and safety education, as provided in policy 3540, Comprehensive Health Education Program. 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. To meet any review periods required by law, materials also may be made available for review in the central office;
4. their child’s participation in academic or career guidance or personal or social counseling services of a generic nature offered to groups of scholars (e.g., peer relations strategies offered to all ninth graders). 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 (see policies 3610, Counseling Program, and 4240/7312, Child Abuse – Reports and Investigations);
5. their child’s participation in non-Department of Education-funded surveys concerning protected topics (see policy 4720, Surveys of Scholars);
6. 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 the school administration; and (c) not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of scholars;
7. the collection, disclosure, or use of their child’s personal information for marketing purposes (see policy 4720, Surveys of Scholars); and
8. 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 the 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.

1. **Parental Permission Required**

Written parental permission is required prior to the following activities:

1. the administration of medications to scholars by employees of NERSBA (see policy 6125, Administering Medicines to Scholars);
2. the release of student records that are not considered directory information, unless the release is allowed or required by law (see policy 4700, Student Records);
3. off-campus trips;
4. scholars’ participation in high-impact or high-risk sports, intramurals, curricular or extracurricular activities (see policy 4220, Student Insurance Program);
5. all decisions or actions as required by the IDEA with regard to providing special education or related services to scholars with disabilities (see policy 3520, Special Education Programs/Rights of Scholars 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. scholars’ participation in programs or services that provide information about where to obtain contraceptives or abortion referral services;
9. scholars’ participation in surveys funded by the Department of Education that are conducted concerning protected topics (see policy 4720, Surveys of Scholars);
10. disclosure of scholars’ free and reduced price lunch eligibility information or eligibility status; and
11. scholars’ independent access to the Internet, as described in policy 3225/4312/7320, Technology Responsible Use.

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 U.S.C. 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; National School Lunch Program, 42 U.S.C. 1751 *et seq*., 7 C.F.R. 210.12; 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(e1), -105.41, -109.1, -174.26(d), -307(c), -375.4, -390.2, -391.1, -407.16; State Board of Education Policies FCB-A-000, GCS-A-001, GCS-J-002

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