

Botetourt County Public Schools Title 1 Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Vision: Parents are their children's first and most important teachers. Research tells us that parent involvement makes a big difference. When schools welcome families, establish personal relationships among families and staff, help parents understand how the system works, and encourage family-staff collaboration to improve student achievement, students do better in school – and the schools get better.

Our school division is committed to being family-friendly and to working as partners with our families to help ALL our students learn to high levels.

Our school division encourages families to be:

- teachers of their children at home
- supporters of our school and of public education
- advocates for their own and other children, and
- decision-makers in school policy and practice

To be full family-friendly, each school will provide:

1. A welcoming environment

- Friendly signs welcome visitors and explain how to get around the building.
- Standards of welcoming behavior apply to all staff, including front office staff, bus drivers, custodians and cafeteria workers.
- Visitors and callers are greeted politely and right away and can get information easily.

2. Programs and activities to engage families in improving student achievement

- Current student work is displayed throughout the building, so that visitors can understand the purpose of the work and the high standards it is to meet.
- Programs and activities provided by teachers inform families of curriculum content and promote high standards.
- Workshops, learning packets, newsletters, and other activities show families how to help their children at home – and respond to what families say they want to learn more about.
- The school reports to parents about student progress and how teachers, parents and community members can work together to make improvements.

3. Strong relationships between teachers and families

- The school welcomes new families, offers tours, and introduces them to staff and other families.
- Teachers and families can meet face-to-face and get to know each other through Back-to-School activities, conferences, and PTA meetings.
- Teachers make personal contact with each family at least once per six weeks.
- A family liaison may help teachers connect to families and bridge barriers of language and culture.

4. Opportunities for families to develop their skills, self-confidence and contacts
 - Families are involved in planning how they would like to be involved at the school.
 - School committees and the PTA reflect the diversity of the school community and actively recruit and welcome families from all backgrounds.
 - The school is open and accessible – it is easy for parents to meet with the principal, talk to teachers and the counselor, and bring up issues and concerns.
5. Professional development for families and staff on how to work together productively.
 - Families learn how the school system works and how to be effective advocates for their children.
 - Teachers learn about successful approaches to working with families of diverse cultural backgrounds.
 - Families and staff can learn together how to collaborate to improve student achievement.
 - The school reaches out to identify and draw in local community resources that can assist staff and families.

This policy was developed by a committee of parents, teachers, support staff, community members.

1. The current Botetourt County Parent Involvement Policy, Title 1 Dissemination Plan and School/Parent/Student Compact are reviewed annually during our DPAC Family Focus Night which includes families, staff and community members.
2. The policy is revised using the comments made during the business session of the DPAC Family Focus Night. Comments from the End-of-the-Year Parent Survey are also reviewed.

The policy will be reviewed every year and updated or revised as needed using the process described above.

Attachments:

What is Title I? (Brochure)
Program Description (Parent Letter)
Corrective Program (Parent Letter)
Parent and Family Engagement Policy (School)
Plan for Parent and Family Engagement
School/Parent/Student Compact
Dissemination Plan
Complaint Procedure

Equal Employment Opportunity/Non-Discrimination

The Botetourt County School Board is an equal opportunity employer, committed to non-discrimination in recruitment, selection, hiring, pay, promotion, retention or other personnel action affecting employees or candidates for employment. Therefore, discrimination in employment against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, political affiliation, gender, age, marital status, or disability is prohibited. Personnel decisions shall be based on merit and the ability to perform the essential functions of the job, with or without reasonable accommodation.

Students see School Board [Policy JB](#)

Employees see School Board [Policy GB](#)

Sexual Harassment/Harassment Based on Race, National Origin, Disability, and Religion

Botetourt County Public Schools is committed to maintaining a learning/working environment free from sexual harassment based on race, national origin, disability or religion. Therefore, Botetourt County School Division prohibits sexual harassment and harassment based on race, national origin, disability, or religion of any student or school personnel at school or any school sponsored activity.

Students see School Board [Policy JFHA/GBA](#)

Employees see School Board [Policy GBA/JFHA](#)

The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the above:

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