

PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY ***(Pursuant to AB 201)***

Lincoln County Board of Education recognizes that parental involvement is a key in academic achievement. Parent refers to any caregiver who assumes responsibility for nurturing and caring for children, including parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, foster parents, (stepparents,) etc. Documented studies show that when parents are involved in their children's education, the attitudes, behaviors, and achievement of students are positively enhanced.

Parents and families provide the primary educational environment for children; consequently, parents are vital and necessary partners with the educational communities throughout their children's school career. Parents come to the schools with diverse cultural backgrounds, primary languages, and needs, universally all parents want what is best for their children. Lincoln County School District and its schools, in collaboration with parents, teachers, students and administrators, must establish and develop efforts that will enhance parental involvement and reflect the needs of students, parents, and families in their educational communities.

To enhance parental involvement, several essential elements should be encouraged.

1. Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning: Lincoln County School District recognizes and acknowledge parents' roles as the integral and primary facilitator of their children's education. Student achievement increases when parents are actively involved in the learning process.
2. Responsible parenting is promoted and supported: The family plays a primary role in a child's education, schools must respect and honor that role. Parents needing special assistance are linked to programs and resources within the community that provide support services.
3. Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful: Effective communication requires school-initiated contact as well as parent-initiated contact. Both parties provide vital information about a child's strengths, challenges, and accomplishments. To effectively communicate, both parties must be aware of educational issues and appropriate steps must be taken to allow clear communications.
4. Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families: Parents and educators have a joint responsibility to make informed decisions related to all aspects of the education provided to Lincoln County School District's youth. The role of parents in shared decision making should be continually evaluated, refined, and expanded.
5. Schools are to be open and inviting to all parents and families. Schools should be actively seeking parental support and assistance for all school programs: Parents are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance is sought. Capitalizing on the expertise and skills of

the parents strengthens the family, school and community partnership.

6. Community resources are made available to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning: Schools and parents will cultivate relationships with additional members of the community in order to promote and effectively increase educational opportunities for children. Together, parents, educators and community members will join efforts toward identifying and promoting community resources and innovative programs for strengthening schools, families, and student learning.

Providing Lincoln County School District's children with equal access to quality education is our primary goal. It is vital that all partners (parents, educator, communities, etc.) have the opportunity to provide input and offer resources to meet this goal. Partnerships are mutually beneficial. Developing cooperative efforts and linking access to resources will ensure improved academic achievement.

Parent Involvement: Empowering parents to participate in their children's education.