



## **POLICY: PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

It is the goal of the West Valley School District to develop strong partnerships with the parents. Parents and schools working as partners increase student achievement and develop positive attitudes about self and school in general and specifically for children in compensatory programs.

The key factor in the home-school partnership is the relationship between the teacher and the parent. Teachers are professionals who manage a variety of instructional resources. Parents are an essential resource in the learning process of their children. Organizational support from the school Board, district administrators, and building principals enables teachers to effectively develop the partnership.

The intent of this policy is to define current parent partnership practices in a more consistent and effective manner as well as generating new approaches for strengthening the home-school partnership.

The partnership between home and school will be supported by:

1. The development of an infrastructure to continually assess, plan and implement strategies that build the partnership.
  - The WISH Committee (West Valley Involves School Helpers), a district-wide committee of parents, teachers, and administrators, shall guide overall program efforts and serve as a home-school partnership network.
  - Activities will be coordinated through the staff development system in areas of teacher inservice, assessment of teaching strengths, and communication with parents toward creation of the best possible learning experience for each child.
2. Each district school shall annually conduct an evaluation of parental involvement practices by teams of parents, teachers and the administrator in each school using the following seven basic principles considered essential to home-school partnerships:
  - a. Every aspect of the school climate is open, helpful and friendly.
  - b. Communications with parents (whether about school policies and programs or about their own children) are frequent, clear and two-way.

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- c. Parents are treated as collaborators in the educational process, with a strong complementary role to play in their children's school learning and behavior.
- d. Parents are encouraged, both formally and informally, to comment on building rules and procedures and to share in the decision making.
- e. The principal and other school administrators actively express and promote the philosophy of partnership with all families.
- f. The school encourages volunteer participation from parents and the community at large.
- g. The school recognizes its responsibility to forge a partnership with all families in the school, not simply those most easily available, including those with disabilities, limited English, and/or other diversity.

The annual evaluation shall be presented in writing to the WISH Committee.

The WISH Committee shall annually provide a written report to the school Board on the results of each school's evaluation and give an assessment of the content and effectiveness of parent involvement in attaining high student achievement.

3. Resources will be provided to principals, teachers and parents by the district and the WISH Committee.

The West Valley School District, its school Board, WISH Committee and staff will provide leadership in the development of clear avenues of parental involvement. Full realization of the partnership will be achieved through the on-going commitment and active participation by both home and school.