

Parent Involvement

The North Canaan Board of Education recognizes that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and family during the entire period the child spends in school. To support the goal of the school district to educate all students effectively, the schools and parents must work as knowledgeable partners.

Although parents are diverse in culture, language, and needs, they share the school's commitment to the educational success of their children. The school district and the schools within its boundaries, in collaboration with parents, shall establish programs and practices that enhance parent involvement and reflect the specific needs of students and their families.

To this end, the Board supports the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of a parent involvement program in each school, which will involve parents at all grade levels in a variety of roles. The parent involvement programs will be comprehensive and coordinated in nature. They will include, but not be limited to, the following components of successful parent involvement programs:

- Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful. (Such communication may include monthly newsletters, electronic communications, required regular contact with all parents, two required flexible parent-teacher conferences for each school year, and drop-in hours for parents, home visits and use of technology.)
- Parenting skills should be promoted and supported.
- Parents should play an integral role in assisting student learning.
- Parents should be welcome in every school and their support and assistance sought.
- Parent input should be sought regarding decisions that affect children and families.
- Community resources are made available to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning.
- The two required parent-teacher conferences per year, beginning July 1, 2021 and each school year thereafter, can be fulfilled by the District offering parents the option of attending any parent-teacher conference by the use of telephonic, video, or other conferencing platforms.
- An additional parent-teacher conference, in addition to the two required conferences, shall be conducted during periods when the District provides remote learning for more than three consecutive weeks and one additional parent-teacher conference every six months thereafter for the duration of such period of remote learning.

The District will request from the parent/guardian of each student the name and contact information of an emergency contact person who may be contacted if the student's parent/guardian cannot be reached to schedule a parent-teacher conference required when the District is providing remote learning for a period of three consecutive weeks or more.

In situations in which the teacher is unable to contact a student's parent/guardian after three attempts to schedule the required parent-teacher conference during a period of remote learning provided by the District for three consecutive weeks or more, such teacher is directed to report such inability to the principal. Such principal or her or his designee is to contact the student's emergency contact to determine the student and family's health and safety.

The Board shall utilize the document developed by the State Department of Education (by 12/1/21) that provides information concerning educational, safety, mental health and food insecurity resources and programs available to students and their families.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221 Boards of Education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures as amended by PA 97-290, An Act Enhancing Educational Choices and Opportunities and by PA 10-111, An Act concerning Education Reform in Connecticut, and P.A. 21-46, An Act Concerning Social Equity and the Health, Safety, and Education of Children.

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NORTH CANAAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

North Canaan, Connecticut