

Community Relations

Communication with the Public

Parent Involvement

Considerable evidence indicates that meaningful involvement of families, guardians, and other care-givers in the schooling of children improves the quality of education significantly. The Board of Education believes that closer connections of families and others responsible for the home care of the children with our schools can result in enhanced academic performance, improved behavior, and reduced absenteeism.

Therefore, all families, guardians, and care-givers of students enrolled in our school district are encouraged to take an active role in the education of their children.

Further, the Board of Education believes that the administration must take whatever steps are necessary to facilitate a broad variety of opportunities for families to connect frequently with the schools in which their children are enrolled, and with the overall system. Each option should:

- encourage strong home-based partnerships;
- provide for consistent and effective communication between the families, guardians, and care-givers, and school officials;
- offer families, guardians, and care-givers ways to assist and encourage their children to do their best;
- offer ways families, guardians, and care-givers can support classroom learning activities; and
- provide opportunities for families, guardians, and care-givers to have a voice in the planning and decision-making at both the school and district level.

In order to afford all families, and care-givers opportunities for involvement in the educational process, activities and the scheduling of those activities must take into account the needs of working families, guardians, and care-givers.

The two required parent-teacher conferences per year, beginning July 1, 2021 and each school year thereafter, can be fulfilled by the District offering families 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.

Some mechanisms that have been shown to be successful in fostering home-school connections are family newsletters, open houses, parenting education workshops, parent-teacher organizations, parent forums, and parent participation on school governing councils, parent participation on district and/or building committees and task forces, and classroom volunteerism.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[10-221\(f\)](#) Boards of Education to prescribe rule(s), policies, and procedures as amended by PA 97-290, P.A. 10-111, and P.A. 21-46, An Act Concerning Social Equity and the Health, Safety, and Education of Children.

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STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Stonington, Connecticut