



# Parent/Caregiver-Community Ties with Schools: How can they be strengthened?

**District Partnership and Community Engagement Committee  
November 29, 2018**

# POLICY 918

## District-wide Parent & Family Engagement Policy

### PURPOSE



The primary goal of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy is to increase family engagement within the School District of Philadelphia. Within this primary goal, three subgoals have been identified:

- a) Inviting caregivers' input into District policies and procedures.
- b) Making the schools and its educational and physical resources more accessible for caregivers.
- c) Providing opportunities for caregivers to gain as much information as possible about their children's academic achievement and how to access resources to support their children's education.



## POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Annually, the District conducts an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the district-wide parent and family engagement policy, activities, and programs.



Family and community members are invited via **robo-call**, **social media**, **email newsletters**, and **flyers** to participate in the input process.



The Office of Family and Community Engagement holds **focus groups** to explain the policy and listen to feedback from stakeholders.



All stakeholders can also share their input, questions, and feedback via an **online survey**.

# POLICY 918

## OFFICE OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES



**Building families' ability to support learning at home**



**Family Academy: Courses & Training**

Offering free workshops to families to support individual & student learning



**FACE Outreach Team**

School-level support for families:  
- Family Engagement Liaisons  
- Bilingual Counseling Assistants



**Focus on FACE Newsletter**

Providing resources, tools, and best practice stories for families to learn how to partner with schools



**Teen Parent Services**

Supporting teen parents with raising children and preparing for college and career



**Welcome Wagons**

Providing resources and workshops to immigrant, refugee, & Limited English Proficient families



**Developing staff members' family engagement capacity**



**Tune-up Tuesdays**

Equipping teachers with tools and strategies for effectively partnering with families



**Principal Professional Development Trainings**

Providing information and resources to principals to support a family partnership culture at their school



**New Teacher Induction**

Giving new teachers an introduction to family engagement in Philadelphia



**Welcoming Schools Training**

Providing training to staff district-wide on creating safe and friendly spaces for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers



**Supporting Family-Community-School Partnerships**



**School Advisory Councils**

Bringing all stakeholders together to improve learning outcomes



**Academic Parent-Teacher Teams**

Bringing families and teachers together to help students learn



**Volunteer Appreciation Month**


Celebrating volunteers' contributions and helping staff work with volunteers



**Special Events:**

- Back-to-School Event  
- Roadmap to Navigating the District Conference  
- End-of-Year Celebration

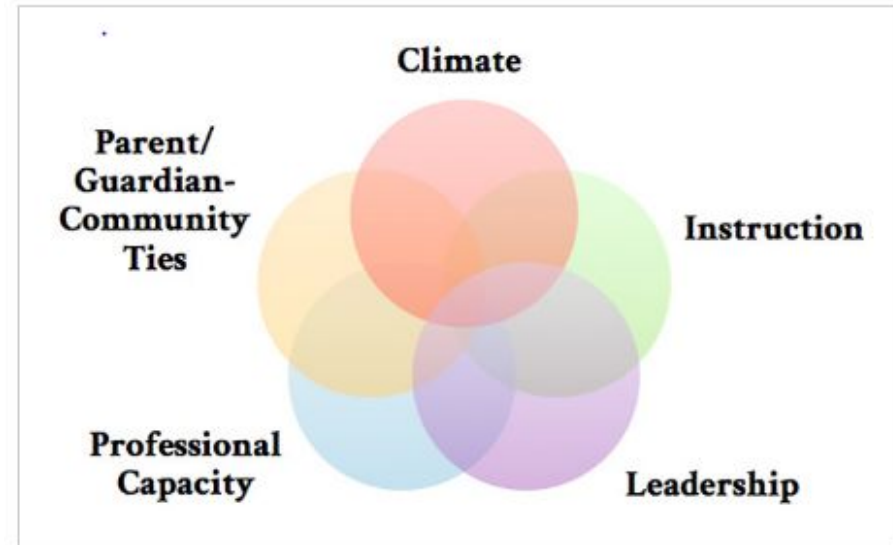


A student with dark hair in a ponytail, wearing a light-colored lab coat, is focused on looking through a microscope in a laboratory setting. The background shows a wooden shelf with various items, including a box labeled 'POOPER' and a book titled 'BIOLOGY'. The text is overlaid on the image, with the first part in blue and the last part in green.

**While we engage parents/caregivers through a variety of efforts, we get the highest rates of participation through the District-Wide Survey.**

# What is the District-Wide Survey?

- Every year the District collects input from school communities
  - Surveys are sent to parents, students, teachers, and principals
- The surveys are available every year from March to June
- The surveys ask questions about 5 topics:
  - Instruction
  - Leadership
  - Climate
  - Professional capacity
  - Parent/guardian-community ties



# How is the survey information used?

- Required for certain state and federal funding
- Determine strengths and areas for improvements
- Identify important trends in parent attitudes
- Evaluate the effectiveness of interventions
- Provide feedback to SACs and school communities

# Survey Administration Window

Survey	2014-2015 Administration Window*	2015-2016 Administration Window	2016-2017 Administration Window	2017-2018 Administration Window
Student	May 4 – June 19, 2015	March 31 – June 27, 2016	April 3 – June 23, 2017	February 12 – June
Parent & Guardian	April 20 – June 19, 2015	March 31 – June 27, 2016	April 3 – June 23, 2017	February 12 – June
Teacher	May 18 – June 19, 2015	May 3 – May 27, 2016	May 31 – June 5, 2017	March 1 – June 1, 2018
Principal	May 18 – June 19, 2015	May 10 – May 27, 2016	May 31 – June 5, 2017	March 1 – June 1, 2018

\*Administration windows are adjusted each year based on feedback.

# Survey Administration Timeline

January	February	March	April and May	June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Emails are sent to Assistant Sups and principals/school leaders with flyers, Quick Reference Guide, survey information and instructions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reminder emails sent to principals/school leaders about surveys opening</li><li>• Principals submit requests for paper copies</li><li>• <b>Parent/guardian survey opens</b></li><li>• Student survey opens</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Response rate tracker on website is available and weekly updates provided</li><li>• Principal and teacher surveys open</li><li>• <b>Paper copies of parent/guardian surveys delivered or picked-up</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mailings sent to families</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Information about surveys and computers for survey completion available at FACE end of year event</b></li><li>• Due date for paper copies to be returned</li><li>• Surveys close online</li></ul>



*Over four years, we have a lot of feedback\* ....*

272,506

Student responses

24,278

Teacher responses

795

Principal responses

107,565

Parent responses

\*Responses for survey administered from August 2014 to May 2018.

*Still, parents have the lowest response rates each year\*...*

**54%**

*80,101 students*

**54%**

*6,652 teachers*

**60%**

*199 principals*

**17%**

*33,334 parents*

\*Responses from the 2017-2018 School Year only.



**Best Practices from Dunbar Elementary School:**

**Principal Dawn Moore**

**Ms. Haydee Delgado – SAC Co-Chair**

**Ms. Linnea Hunter - SAC Co-Chair**

**Ms. Carolyn Parks – Parent**

# Group Discussions with Board Members

- 1. The information shared today are examples of some of the ways parents/caregivers and community members can engage with their local schools. What are some ideas for other ways the District can improve parent/caregiver engagement in schools?**
- 2. The annual survey is a tool used to collect feedback from school communities including parents/caregivers. What are other ways the District can collect feedback from school communities? What ideas do you have to improve parent/caregiver participation on the survey? How can parents/caregivers help promote the survey?**
- 3. What are some ways for the school board to improve engagement among all of our stakeholders (parents/caregivers, community members, and other partners)?**