

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

No. 901

Section: Community
Title: School-community
Relations Objectives
Adopted: October 5, 2011
Revised: January 30, 2020

901 SCHOOL-COMMUNITY RELATIONS OBJECTIVES

Purpose

The Board of Education (“Board”) recognizes the importance of building and continuously strengthening school-community relationships to support student outcomes. The purpose of the school-community relations program is to establish and maintain communication that informs the parents/guardians and public and involves them in the educational goals and programs of the School District of Philadelphia (“District”).

Authority

To achieve this purpose, the District shall provide parents/guardians, District residents, and visitors opportunities to receive information regarding the schools and school administration. The District shall utilize all appropriate means and media to achieve its school-community relations objectives including, but not limited to providing:

1. Accommodations to individuals with disabilities to ensure equal access to district services and facilities; [1][2] and
2. Providing translation and interpretation services to provide information in the native language or mode of communication whenever required by law or regulations.

Delegation of Responsibility

It shall be the responsibility of all District staff to:

1. Acquaint parents/guardians and residents with the work of the schools and students;
2. Give courteous and thoughtful consideration to all inquiries and suggestions and carefully investigate all complaints; [2]
3. Make parents/guardians, volunteers and visitors feel welcome in the school and in the classroom;

4. Proactively engage with and solicit input from parent-teacher and other community groups in meaningful ways;
5. Maintain learning and work environments that support the goals of the District and positive student and family engagement; and
6. Promote interstaff relations that are conducive to high morale and merit the respect of students and community members.

Mandatory Regulatory Procedures

The school-community relations program shall be based on the following principles:

1. School-community communications must be honest in intent and execution;
2. School-community relations must be an integral part of the total educational program; and
3. Ideas should be communicated in simple, easily understood language.

The objectives of the District's school-community relations program shall be to:

1. Recognize students and their achievements;
2. Explain the programs, achievements and needs of the schools to parents/guardians and the community as a whole;
3. Determine:
 - a. What residents expect from their schools;
 - b. What residents think about the accomplishments of their schools;
 - c. What residents would like to know about their schools; and
 - d. Which particular areas of the school program, policies or operations need further clarification or explanation; and
4. Keep students and staff members fully informed about District policies and procedures and system-wide activities.

Legal References:

1. [Policy 904](#) - Public Attendance at School Events
2. [42 U.S.C. §§12101](#), *et seq.* Americans With Disabilities Act
3. [Policy 906](#) - Addressing Constituent and Student Concerns

Related References:

1. [65 Pa. C.S.A. §§ 701](#), *et seq.* Sunshine Act
2. [Policy 006](#) - Public Engagement
3. [Policy 903](#) - Public Participation in Board Meetings
4. [Policy 902](#) - Publications Program