

Parental Involvement...

RIVERCREST HIGH SCHOOL RCTGPV'CPF'HCOIN['GPI CI GO GPV'PLAN

Rivercrest High School understands the importance of parental involvement in promoting higher student achievement and general good will between the school and those it serves. Therefore, Rivercrest High School will strive to develop and maintain the capacity for meaningful and productive parental and community involvement that will result in partnerships that are mutually beneficial to the school, students, parents, and community. To achieve such goals, the school will work to:

1. Remove all barriers to positive parental involvement.

A. The school will pay attention to the policies that effect students and parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, limited English proficient, limited literacy, or who are of a racial or ethnic minority.

B. School policies will be reviewed and revised if necessary.

2. Welcome parents into the school and seek parental support and assistance.

A. The school should not have any school policies that would discourage a parent from visiting the school or from visiting a child's classroom. For the safety and education of the students and staff, parents must follow established rules for visiting the school or classroom.

B. The school staff should be encouraged to use volunteer surveys to compile a volunteer resource book which:

a. Lists the interests and availability of volunteers;

b. Determines how frequently a volunteer would like to participate, including the option of just one (1) time per year;

c. Includes options for those who are available to help at home; and

d. Helps to match school needs with volunteers' interests.

The volunteer brochure sent home in student packets addresses these requirements.

3. Recognize that communication between home and school should be regular, two-way, and meaningful.

A. The school shall prepare an informational packet to be distributed annually to the parents of each child in school (appropriate for the age and grade of the child), describing and including:

a. The Parental Involvement Program;

b. The recommended role of the parent, student, teacher, and school;

c. Ways for the parent to become involved in the school and in his/her child's education;

d. A survey for the parent regarding his/her interests concerning volunteering at the school;

e. Some of the activities planned throughout the year designed to encourage parental involvement, including but not limited to:

Open House;

Parent Teacher Conferences;

Parent speakers;

Parent meetings;

Jr. and Sr. Parent meetings;

Chaperones for trips;

Academic / Career Fairs; and
f. A system to allow the parents and teachers to communicate in a regular, meaningful, and two-way manner, including but not limited to:

Newsletters;
Report cards;
Progress reports;
School and district website;
Home Access Center (HAC);
Office notes;
Calendars;
Handbook meetings;
Parent / Teacher meetings;
Academic / Career Fairs;
Teacher correspondence (letters sent home);
E-mail;
School phone system; and
School Messenger.

B. Develop with parents a student/parent/school/compact outlining:

a. How parents, staff and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve;

b. How the school will provide high-quality curriculum in a supportive and effective learning environment that will enable the children to meet the school's achievement standards; and

c. How each parent will be responsible for supporting their child's learning and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive extracurricular time.

C. The school may plan and implement other activities (determined by the school) to be beneficial to encourage communication with parents.

4. Recognize that a parent is a full partner in the decisions that affect his or her child and family:

A. To encourage parents to participate as a full partner, the school shall provide:

a. At least two parent teacher conferences;

b. Frequent reports, including progress reports and report cards, to parents on their child's progress (the complete list will be reviewed and revised throughout the year.);

c. School and district website with the Home Access Center (HAC);

d. E-mail;

e. School Messenger;

f. Reasonable access to staff, including E-mail, phone calls, and individual conferences;

g. Opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's education, including in the following activities:

Academic awards ceremonies;

Athletic awards ceremonies;

Academic / Career Fairs;

Band concerts;

Choir concerts;

Grandparents' Day;

Open House;

Parent Teacher conferences; and

Veteran's Day assembly.

B. Include in the school's policy handbook, the school process for resolving parental concerns, including:

- a. How to define the problem;
- b. Who to approach first; and
- c. How to develop solutions.

C. Engage in other activities that will encourage parents to participate as full partners (as determined by the school).

5. Promote and support responsible parenting.

- A. To promote and support responsible parenting, the school shall, as funds are available:
- a. Purchase parenting books, magazines, and other informative materials regarding reasonable parenting through the library, advertise the selections, and give parents an opportunity to borrow materials for review;
 - b. Create parent centers;
 - c. Purchase a set of parenting CDs; and
 - d. Purchase parenting books.

6. Acknowledge that parents play an integral role in assisting student learning. To help the parent in assisting students, the school shall (the complete list will be reviewed and revised throughout the year):

- A. Schedule an annual parental involvement meeting at which each parent is given a report on the state of the school.
- B. Schedule other meetings at which parents are given overview of:
- a. What students will be learning;
 - b. How students will be assessed;
 - c. What parents should expect for their child's education; and
 - d. How a parent can assist and make a difference in his/her child's education.
- C. Engage in other activities that (as the school determines) will help parents assist in student learning.

7. To undertake efforts to ensure that Parental Involvement is recognized as an asset to the school.

- A. The Superintendent will designate for each school one certified staff member who is willing to serve as a parent facilitator to:
- a. Help organize meaningful training for staff and parents;
 - b. Promote and encourage a welcoming atmosphere to foster parental involvement in the school; and
 - c. Undertake efforts to ensure that parental participation is recognized as an asset to the school.

The certified staff member serving as a parental involvement facilitator shall received supplemental pay for the duties as required by law.

- B. Engage in other activities that (as the school determines) will ensure that parental involvement is an asset to the school.

8. Recognize that community resources strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning. To take advantage of community resources the school shall:

A. Consider recruiting alumni from the school to serve on committees to provide advice and guidance for school improvement, including an Alumni Association, a Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee, and a Parental Involvement ACSIP Committee.

B. Enable the formation of a Parent Teacher Association or organization that will foster parental and community involvement within the school. The school will consider using leaders of this organization as a resource when making appropriate decisions affecting children and families.

C. Engage in other activities that will use community resources to strengthen school program, family practices, and student learning, including the Mississippi County Teen Summit, Career Day, and scholarship assemblies.

9. The school will conduct an annual review of Parental Involvement policies to examine their effect on promoting higher student achievement. This will be done by a committee consisting of parents, community members, certified staff, and administration.

10. This policy shall be part of the Rivercrest High School's Title I plan and shall be distributed to the district's parents and provided, to the extent possible, in a language that parents can understand.