

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY: CAREGIVER AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT POLICY

DATE ADOPTED: December 5, 2023

PURPOSE

It is the policy of the Colchester School District to encourage and support the involvement of caregivers in their child's education. Research has shown that caregiver involvement is a key factor in the academic and social success of students. It is important to involve caregivers in their child's education at home, in school, and within the larger community, particularly those historically underrepresented and most impacted by inequity. The district encourages the engagement of student, caregiver, and community voices to provide equitable learning for all students.

I. DEFINITIONS

Caregiver: Includes a parent, legal guardian or other person who is legally responsible for the child's welfare.

Home-School Compact: A requirement of Title I, Part A that is a written outline of how the school staff, parents, and students share the responsibility for improved student achievement of the State's academic standards.

Parent and Family Engagement: A requirement of Title I, Part A that describes the inclusion of parents, families, schools, and communities in order to support learning and school improvement.

II. IMPLEMENTATION

To facilitate involvement, the superintendent or their designee shall develop programs and procedures to accomplish the following objectives.

- A.** Caregivers should be informed about their children's educational programs and instructional methods and objectives. They should be notified directly of any significant changes.
- B.** Caregivers and the community should be provided with opportunities to become informed and communicate with educators on subjects such as program design, operations and evaluation.

Legal Reference:

16 V.S.A. § 165

Elementary and Secondary Act, Title I, Part A; 20 USC 1118 § 1120

Last Reviewed: October 1, 2019

Date Warned: November 17, 2023

First Reading: November 21, 2023

Second Reading: December 5, 2023

- C. Caregivers should be encouraged to observe instructional activities, attend program meetings, discuss concerns with educators, participate in improvement efforts and to give recommendations to school staff, administration and board members.
- D. Caregivers should be provided with information and opportunities intended to improve their abilities to work with their children at home and in school and to build partnerships between homes and schools.
- E. Faculty, staff, administrators, school board members and school-community partners should be offered training opportunities intended to improve their abilities to build and maintain effective relationships with caregivers.
- F. Community members, caregivers, and families should have access to continuous improvement plans, school reports, and other relevant data as part of the Vermont Education Quality Standards.

III. **TITLE I**

To provide all children with significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational gaps, particularly those historically underrepresented and most impacted by inequity, the Colchester School District receives Title I, Part A funds.

The Colchester School District will ensure the implementation of the district's Caregiver and Community Involvement Policy, Title I Parent and Family Engagement procedures and a Home-School Compact to address Title I, Part A Parent and Family Engagement requirements.

The district will maintain programs, activities and procedures for the involvement and engagement with caregivers of students receiving services or enrolled in programs under Title I, Part A.