

NOAH WEBSTER EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION MODEL POLICY

TO: TBD
FROM: Noah Webster Educational Foundation
RE: Community and Family Cooperation with Student Well-being
DATE: TBD

This model policy aims to help school boards operate smoothly by establishing clear policies that foster student well-being through enhanced community and parental involvement.

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY COOPERATION WITH STUDENT WELLBEING

AUTHORS:

- Noah Webster Educational Foundation

BACKGROUND: Mental health professionals and researchers have determined with an overwhelming amount of data that parental and community involvement in a student's education is one of the most significant indicators of emotional well-being and academic success. School boards should promote parental engagement without overburdening parents, faculty, or staff by clarifying and refining current policies to better support students and teachers through parental and community involvement. This model policy helps school boards by addressing the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 requirement for school boards to send out a periodical notification of the parental engagement plan developed by the district, providing added support such as clarification of roles, designated timing of the notifications, and added safeguards to help encourage parents and support school faculty and staff. For more information on why this policy is recommended and how it relates to mental health, please see the Noah Webster Educational Foundations resource "Mental Health Matters: Navigating the Terrain of K12 Education training series for school boards" at this link: [Mental Health Matters Training](#). The specific training session related to this policy is session three, "A Positive School Climate Adhering to Legal and Ethical Guidelines."

LEGAL ADVISORY: The following policy was written based on research and guidance from mental health professionals and policy analysts. Noah Webster Educational Foundation is not a law firm, nor does it claim any legal expertise. Please consult your school district's attorney and applicable state laws and codes when evaluating model policies from Noah Webster Educational Foundation.

Subject: Community and Family Cooperation with Student Well-Being

I. Description of Program

This School Board/School Division, as required by the state and federal governments under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, periodically makes available to all parents the school district's Parental Engagement Plan. This plan is outlined to inform and encourage parents to take an active role in their students' education:

- A. Principals and vice-principals in [this] district must provide parents with a digital copy of the district's parental engagement plan.
- B. Teachers should not be made responsible for notifying, following up with, or meeting with parents regarding parental engagement plans.

All tenants of the parental engagement plan should align with state and federal guidelines on the positive impact of family and community engagement on a student's well-being and academic success.

II. Procedures for Schools Regarding Parental Notification

Schools within **[schoolboard district]** should ensure that parents receive and understand the district's parental engagement plan by requiring a parent/guardian signature on the digital notification. If a child's parents/guardians do not return a signed notice to the school, the school administration is responsible for taking reasonable steps to ensure the parents/guardians are aware of the notice by obtaining a signature of verification. Reasonable steps might include emailing a second notice and reminder to parents/guardians, making a phone call to discuss the matter, or arranging a meeting between the school administrator and parents/guardians to resolve the issue.

III. Annual Notification

Parents/guardians should be notified annually of the parental engagement plan. The notification should be sent out each new school year before the students' first day of school. The notification will include the district's parental engagement plan, as required by the state/federal governments. It will include a signature line for parents to sign, acknowledging that they are aware of the district's policy.

IV. Maintenance of Records

All information and records of signed parental engagement plans should be maintained in the student's records and made accessible to the parent or guardian in the future. School secretaries are responsible for maintaining signed notices in a records or data system for future reference and data collection/assessment. No information or record of this notification should be disclosed without parental/guardian consent or as otherwise provided by law.