

## PARENT/FAMILY/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The McDowell County Board of Education believes that parent, family and community involvement is absolutely fundamental to a healthy system of public education. Recognizing that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and family during the entire period the child spends in the school system, strong partnerships between homes and schools are vital to student success.

Although parents, families and communities are diverse in culture, language and needs, they share the school's commitment to the educational success of their children. McDowell County Schools, in collaboration with parents/families/communities, shall establish programs and practices that enhance parent/family/community involvement and reflect the specific needs of students, their families, and communities.

The Board supports the development, implementation and regular evaluation of a parent/family/community involvement program in each school, which shall involve parents at all grade levels in a variety of roles. The parent/family/community involvement programs will be comprehensive and coordinated in nature. They will include, but not be limited to, the following components of successful parent/family involvement programs:

- A. Communication between home and school is consistent, clear, two-way, and meaningful.
- B. Responsible parenting is promoted and supported.
- C. Parents/families/communities play an integral role in assisting student learning.
- D. Parents/families/communities are welcome in the school and their support, assistance and involvement are encouraged.
- E. Parents/families are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families.
- F. Community resources are made available to strengthen school programs, family practices and student learning.

The Board supports professional development opportunities for staff members to enhance understanding of effective parent/family/community involvement strategies. The Board also recognizes the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental/family/community participation.

In addition to programs at the school level, the Board supports the development, implementation and regular evaluation of a program to involve parents in the decisions and practices of McDowell County Schools, using, to the degree possible, the components listed above. Engaging all parents/families/communities is essential to improved student achievement. McDowell County Schools shall foster and support broad-based and active parent/family/community involvement.

Adopted: September 3, 2013