**Family Engagement Policy**

Policy Components:

**The Newport City Board of Education will ensure that all families are represented in the policy development process by providing attention to cultural, economic, language, and demographic issues that allow for total access by all to the process.**

District and school-based action teams will consistently ensure varied and diverse involvement (ex. School Improvement Teams, Advisory Members to Curriculum Development Projects, Parent-teacher Teams, Consolidated Plan Total Team, etc.).

Action teams will coordinate and or integrate Title I-A parental involvement strategies with parent involvement strategies under other programs, such as Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents as Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, State-run preschool programs, and Title III language instructional programs.

Representatives of all families will be able to express their ideas and concerns by responding to surveys and other information gathering devices.

**The Newport City Board of Education will provide necessary support to ensure understanding and implementation of Federal, State, and local standards for family engagement.**

Staff development will be provided for school employees on effective practices that lead to measurable family engagement.

The school will develop and implement a plan of effective practices that lead to measurable family engagement.

**The Newport City Board of Education supports clear articulated goals for the extent and type of family engagement.**

Measurable goals for increasing the level and quality of family engagement are required as part of each School Improvement Plan.

The school’s efforts to increase the level and quality of family engagement will be well documented, monitored, and evaluated.

**The Newport City Board of Education will conduct the necessary evaluation to promote continuous improvement of the engagement of all families.**

The school will conduct an annual comprehensive assessment of the familyengagement policy.

The relationship of the academic achievement of students and the involvement of their families will be reviewed annually.

The school will make certain that accessibility to our local educational agency is practicable, and shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

**The Newport City Board of Education requires family engagement at all school sites.**

The school will develop, implement, and evaluate a policy and plan to promote family engagement activities with an emphasis on student learning.

Each year's plan will include an annual measurement that will determine progress toward the specific goals of the plan.

 Each school's yearly assessment will be reviewed by the Board.

Each school will have a designated person or team to coordinate activities and document parent engagement.

**The Newport City Board of Education will provide procedures for parents to access and understand course of study or curricular materials as well as Federal, State and local standards.**

Parents will be provided specific training to ensure their understanding of topics such as State Curriculum Frameworks, State Performance Indicators, achievement standards, assessment procedures, and other topics that build the capacity for families to understand and be meaningfully involved in their children's academic experiences.

The district will maintain a parent/family resource person that assists in the distribution of information to parents.

Teachers will provide units of study, explaining how the unit fits into the curriculum and why it is important to the student's education.

The district will utilize effective communication to share information about curriculum, achievement standards, and assessment to parents (newspaper, newsletters, opportunities to learn, etc.).

Parents will be notified of the family engagement policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand.

**The Newport City Board of Education recognizes that parenting skills are of utmost importance to success of school achievement.**

Professional development will be provided to all staff to build the capacity to create and sustain effective parenting practices.

The school will hold an annual parent meeting to inform parents about the school’s parental involvement programs and right of parents to be involved. Various other educational opportunities will be offered to assist and support parents in becoming effectively engaged in their children's education.

The school will provide parents with timely information about school programs under NCLB section 1118.

Through effective communication procedures, the Family Resource and ESL personnel will provide services and assistance to parents (ex. newsletter, parent meetings, personal contacts, etc.).

Per parent request, opportunities for regular meetings will be welcome in order to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practically possible.

**The Newport City Board of Education incorporates family involvement in decision making and governance.**

Through representation on committees such as the Consolidated Planning Total Team, all families will have meaningful involvement in district governance and decision making.

The district will acquire community input on pending policies, practices, and decisions which affect students and families.

The school will formulate a plan which include families in the decision making process.

The school will maintain an active school improvement team which is inclusive of representation from all families.

**The Newport City Board of Education endorses the concept that on-going and meaningful professional development is an essential element in the engagement of all families.**

Professional development on family engagement will be provided to all professional and support staff.  
  
Professional development on family engagement will be provided to families including specific programs identified as necessary and appropriate by the district.

**The Newport City Board of Education will specify district and site budget lines to the effective development, implementation, and measurement of district and school based family engagement programs.**

The school will be utilize a specified amount of funds (Title I), which are earmarked monies for family engagement programs.

Through annual reports, the district will ensure that Title I funds are spent in accordance with program assurances.

**The Newport City Board of Education will require system supervisors to work with school administrators, teachers, and parents to design improvement strategies at all schools in the system.**

System supervisors will help school administrators to develop strategies so they can work with teachers and parents to develop individual strategies based upon student performance data to produce homework assignments that are parent friendly.

System supervisors will work with school administrators to assist them in developing strategies for involving parents in developing ways to improve student attendance.

System supervisors will work with school administrators, teachers, and parents to develop strategies that will lead to better discipline among students.

**The Newport City Board of Education endorses and will work to involve all family groups in family engagement activities to be offered at the district and school levels.**

The school’s parent involvement policy/plan will be made available to the local community.

A location has been designated and a plan is in place where parents can submit comments on the school wide program (TSIPP) if it is not satisfactory to the parents when the school makes a plan available to the district / LEA.

School meetings and activities will be scheduled so that they will be more accessible to parents all the while using a program format that is easy for everyone to understand.

The school, when informed of a need for an interpreter will provide interpreters at meetings who will act as interpreters for those parents who do not speak English.