

LITCHFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY CODE: KA

Amended: January 21, 2009

APPROVAL: June 4, 2008

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SCHOOL, COMMUNITY, MEDIA, & HOME RELATIONS

The Litchfield School Board recognizes the importance of having a strong partnership between the school system and the parents of our students, as well as the community at large and the local news media. It is therefore the policy of the Litchfield School Board to define standards for involvement between the schools, the community, the news media, and the parents of all students enrolled in Litchfield schools. The Superintendent is directed to implement these standards.

- Litchfield schools are a welcoming place, clearly accessible to parents and the community while maintaining a safe and effective learning environment.
- Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful.
- Parents are full partners in the educational decisions that affect children and families.
- For the purposes of this policy, the term "parent" refers to any adult who has legal custody of a student or students enrolled in Litchfield Schools.
- Parents shall be encouraged to visit their schools for beginning of the year events such as "Open House" and new student orientations. These events shall be used to disseminate information on school policies, discipline procedures, assessment tools, and school goals.
- Opportunities are provided to guide parents in ways to assist with homework, give feedback to teachers, and guide parents in helping their children improve skills and perform well on assessments.
- Parents are encouraged to attend school-sponsored parent workshops to learn about parenting skills, health, safety, nutrition, home environments that support education, and other topics of child and adolescent development throughout the year.
- Reasonable efforts shall be made to communicate with parents in their primary language or in the language in which they feel comfortable.
- Students and parents shall receive information regarding cultural, recreational, academic, health, social and other resources that serve families within the community.
- Develop public understanding of all aspects of school operation, to ascertain public attitudes toward issues in education, and to discover the public's aspirations for the education of their children.
- Secure adequate financial support for a sound educational program.
- Help citizens feel a more direct responsibility for the quality of education provided by their schools.
- Earn the good will, respect, and confidence of the public with regard to the district's staff and services.

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- Foster public understanding of the need for constructive change, and solicit public advice on how we can achieve our educational goals.
- Involve citizens in the work of the district and the solving of educational problems.
- Promote a genuine spirit of cooperation between the district and the community, and to set up channels for sharing the leadership in improving community life.
- The support of area businesses, agencies, and faith-based organizations shall be sought through financial, goods and services, and volunteer contributions.
- Partnerships shall be developed with local organizations, local city and county governments, and talented individuals to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning.
- Student participation in community service shall be encouraged.
- Business partnerships shall also be developed to assist students in the successful transition to employment or further education.
- Establish sound relations with the press and other communication media in the community and surrounding areas.
- The Superintendent shall plan for periodic releases to the press and other forms of communication media which will provide information to the community concerning its schools and various phases of the educational program.
- All school building related news releases (other than School Board – Superintendent) shall be the responsibility of the building principal.

Legal References:

NH Code of Administration Rules, Section Ed. 306.04(a)(11), Policy Development

NH Code of Administration Rules, Section Ed. 306.04(k), Policy Development

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