

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Policy I-11.1 Family and Community Engagement**

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The Arlington School Board believes that all students, schools, and programs achieve success when families and the wider community collaborate as equal partners to cultivate trust and advance the mission and vision of Arlington Public Schools.

The Arlington School Board shares a vision for effective family and community engagement to support student learning where:

1. Families, schools, and the community continually work together to ensure all students learn and thrive in safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments.
2. Schools are friendly, welcoming, and inclusive environments that support family and community members while valuing the talents they have to offer.
3. Families and the larger community feel valued by, feel connected to, understand, and support Arlington Public Schools through strong networks built on trust and respect.
4. Families and schools engage in partnership activities and work across cultural differences with comfort and ease.
5. On-going, two-way communication among individual schools and programs, the school system, families, and the community is the norm.
6. Family and community engagement programs and strategies are aligned with federal and state guidelines, current research, and the Arlington Public Schools Strategic Plan.

**Definition**

Within Arlington Public Schools, family and community engagement is a shared responsibility of families, schools, and the community to support students and their learning and to nurture students' intellectual, personal, social, and emotional development to help them achieve their full potential.

Reflecting a systemic approach to education, this definition of family and community engagement is grounded in the following principles:

1. Shared responsibility in which
  - a. Schools are committed to communicating with and engaging families in accessible and meaningful ways, and
  - b. Families are committed to actively supporting their students' learning and development.
2. An enduring commitment, continuous across the student's life, with family and community roles adjusting as students mature into young adulthood.
3. Effective connections and opportunities for engagement and learning in multiple settings – at home, in school, and in the community.

**Standards for Family, School, and Community Engagement**

The School Board supports family and community engagement that honors the dynamic, multiple, and complementary ways in which students learn and grow. Arlington Public Schools will actively work to achieve the following goals:

1. Welcoming all families into the school community - Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to Arlington Public Schools staff, and to what students are learning and doing in school.

2. Communicating effectively - Arlington Public Schools staff and families engage in regular, meaningful, responsive, two-way communication about student learning and social-emotional development utilizing multiple communication methods.
3. Supporting student success - Arlington Public Schools staff and families have adequate opportunities to collaborate and strengthen their knowledge and skills to support student learning and social and emotional development at school and at home.
4. Advocating for every student - Families and students are empowered to be advocates, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities, resources and supports that will ensure their success.
5. Sharing Responsibility - Arlington Public Schools staff, families, and students are partners in decisions that affect students and together inform and influence policies, practices, and programs.
6. Collaborating with Community - Arlington Public Schools staff, families, and community members connect students to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

### **Responsibilities**

1. Family and community engagement programs and strategies will be systemic, integrated, and sustained with adequate resources and infrastructure support.
2. Arlington Public Schools staff will collaborate with families and community members to build effective family and community partnerships.
3. Arlington Public Schools staff will provide information in a variety of forms and offer multiple avenues for input and participation by families, students, and community members. Arlington Public Schools will ensure that outreach, communication, and capacity building strategies are varied and responsive to the diversity of Arlington Public Schools families and community members.
4. Arlington Public Schools will provide resources and training opportunities for families and staff in order to build their capacity to work in partnership to support student learning and social and emotional development by
  - a. engaging families to become advocates, models, and co-creators of effective partnerships.
  - b. supporting staff to connect family engagement to learning and development, honoring family expertise about their children, and creating welcoming cultures.
5. Arlington Public Schools staff will transparently measure its success using indicators of effective family and community engagement programs and strategies to ensure that the above standards are met.

This policy and its implementing procedures will be reviewed annually, and revisions will be made as needed.

### **References**

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), Title I, Section 1118  
Policy Implementation Procedure I-7.2.3.30 PIP-1 Communication - Language Access Services

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Policy Implementation Procedure I-11.1 PIP-1 Family and Community Engagement  
PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships: An Implementation Guide, 2022  
Mapp, K. L. & Bergman, E. (2019). Dual capacity-building framework for family-school partnerships (Version 2).

**Policy Adoption and Revision History**

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