



Parent Engagement

Date Approved: XXXX

Projected Review Date: XXXX

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PURPOSE:

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) believes in supporting student success and well-being. We do this by having parents actively involved in their children's success.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

HWDSB will:

- Support parents as collaborative partners in their children's learning and development at home and school through the rights established in the Hamilton Parent Charter.
- Recognize parents as assets whose input is responded to quickly and used when appropriate.
- Recognize and celebrate parents within schools and at the Board.
- Encourage parents to share their ideas and views at the classroom, school, system, and board level.
- Support and engage students and parents in matters relating to custody and access of students, while following the provisions of the Children's Law Reform Act, the Divorce Act and the Child and Family Services Act.

INTENDED OUTCOMES:

- Ensure there are opportunities for parents to give input about their children, the school, and the system. This will be done in a safe, accepting, inclusive and healthy learning environment.
- Communicate with parents in a friendly and ongoing timely manner.
- Encourage parents throughout the school year to update any information with the school, related to the family's information.
- Seek to have all parents involved in their children's education. We will do this by:
 - identifying and removing barriers that prevent parents from being engaged
 - providing information about their children's education when needed
 - providing information in a way that meets their needs
- Help parents understand how HWDSB operates and how to support student learning at home by providing:
 - learning opportunities
 - resources
 - supports
- Support parents to get the skills and tools they need to be fully involved in their children's education and the life of their school.
- Review and expand communication and outreach plans. This will help HWDSB ensure that support and communication to parents and students are effective.



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RESPONSIBILITY:

Director of Education
 Members of Executive Council
 Principals

TERMINOLOGY:

Eliminating Barriers: Is about finding why parents are not involved and removing anything that may stop them from being fully involved. This includes having schools reflect the diversity of students and communities.

Hamilton Parent Charter: A Parent Charter outlines the standard of how parents should expect to be treated in their interactions with health, early childhood education, schools, and other community service providers.

Parent: This includes parents, guardians and caregivers.

Parent Outreach: Is about seeking the best way to communicate with parents. This may involve local workshops, presentations, tools, and resources that support learning at home and parent engagement in schools.

School Climate: Is about making the school experience positive. It is where all parents can share their ideas and be heard, valued, and encouraged.

Supports for Parents: Is about giving parents skills, tools, and knowledge to support their children's learning at home and in school.

ACTION REQUIRED:

The Ministry of Education has developed the "*Parent Engagement Framework*," which consist of four strategies (School Climate, Eliminating Barriers, Supports for Parents, and Parent Outreach) to help schools involve parents. Using these four strategies, the Board and school staff will look at ways to involve parents in student success.

HWDSB maintains strict neutrality between parent(s)/guardian(s) who are separated or divorced. Unless a parent/guardian's rights are limited by a Court Order or separation agreement, both individuals have equal authority to review records, visit, or remove a child from school grounds. A procedure will be developed and maintained that outlines the roles and responsibilities of administrators and parents when a Court Order or separation agreement is required.



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PROGRESS INDICATORS:

Intended Outcome	Assessment
Ensure there are opportunities for parents to give input about their children, the school, and the system.	Parent Voice Survey Positive School Climate Survey HWDSB Public Consultation Data
Communicate with parents in a friendly and ongoing timely manner.	Parent Voice Survey
Encourage parents throughout the school year to update any information with the school, related to the family's information.	Audit data collection to ensure parent information is accurate in the Student Information System
Seek to have all parents involved in their children's education.	Parent Voice Survey
Help parents understand how HWDSB operates and how to support student learning at home.	Parent Voice Survey Other Surveys (where appropriate)
Support parents to get the skills and tools they need to be fully involved in their children's education and the life of their school.	Parent Voice Survey
Review and expand communication and outreach plans.	Parent Voice Survey

REFERENCES:

Government Documents

Education Act

Child and Family Services Act

Children's Law Reform Act

Divorce Act

Ministry of Education Parent Engagement Policy

Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPA)

Regulation 330/10: School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees

Regulation 612/00: School Councils

Regulation 613/00: Operation of Schools

HWDSB Policies

Fundraising

Pupil Accommodation Review

Volunteer

Educational Excursions



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Other Documents

City of Hamilton/Best Start Network Parent Charter (Endorsed by Trustees in 2012)