

New Mexico's Guiding Principles on Family & Parent Involvement

A Shared Responsibility

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) recognizes that parents and families are a young child's first teachers, are essential to school readiness, and that when children enter school the responsibility for their education is then shared with the school and the entire community; and

WHEREAS, the NMPED recognizes that creating positive home, school, health, and community partnerships is essential to carrying out this shared responsibility successfully; and

WHEREAS, the NMPED recognizes a clear connection between parent involvement and increased student achievement; and

WHEREAS, the NMPED recognizes that the education of children begins at birth. A birth through twenty-one continuum of services requires an alignment of practices and building relationships between families, schools, and communities; and

WHEREAS, the NMPED recognizes that in this changing world our children's success will require schools, families, and communities to reinvent how they work together.

NOW THEREFORE, the NMPED adopts these principles for key stakeholders in ensuring quality education for all students. NMPED, all local school districts, schools, school personnel and policymakers are encouraged to:

- Value families as equal partners/joint decision makers in the education of our children;
- Listen carefully to the family perspective;
- Make collaborative communication (talking, thinking and planning together) a priority;
- Include social interaction and learning to be respectful of families, language and culture;
- Respect each child and family's individuality and personal circumstances;
- Create high expectations for student academic and social outcomes among all staff and policymakers;
- Engage families and community-based programs as valued partners in the design of efforts to promote school success for all children;
- Acknowledge ALL partners' strengths, capabilities, contributions, and interests;
- Provide ongoing growth and training opportunities necessary for adults responsible for the care and education of children; and
- Design and practice smooth transitions aligning services around each child's needs.

The New Mexico Public Education Department will take steps to foster wider and more substantive family and community involvement by identifying and sharing information with parents and families about effective educational programs. It also will provide information on funding sources for the development, implementation, and evaluation of programs. Further, it will encourage professional development programs on family/school/community involvement for school staff and families. Efforts will be made to connect with families who did not have a positive school experience or for whom English is not their native language.

The New Mexico Public Education Department will continue to support and assist schools and local school systems in developing, implementing, and evaluating policies and programs that involve all parents and families at all grade levels. It will seek to collaborate with community agencies serving children and families to encourage parent and family involvement in the lives of children. These principles complement legislative initiatives regarding family and parent involvement.