

## Parent Involvement Policy

Drew Central High School  
2009 - 2010

Drew Central High School recognizes that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and family all through the child's school career. We support the goal of the school being responsible for educating all students effectively with the school and parents working as knowledgeable partners. We also know that cultural diversity is important, and that parents with diverse cultures are an integral component of the school's ability to provide for the educational success of students. Consequently, the engagement of parents is essential to improve student achievement; therefore, Drew Central High School will foster and support parental involvement.

Parents of students of all grade levels will be included in a variety of comprehensive and coordinated activities that encourage active parental involvement. Recognizing that communication between home and school should be regular, two-way, and meaningful, **Drew Central High School will foster and support Parental Involvement:**

- A. Prepare family kits appropriate for the age and grade of the child that will include:
  - 1. The school's parental involvement program.
  - 2. The recommended role of the parent, student, teacher, and school.
  - 3. Ways for the parents to become involved in the school and his or her child's education.
  - 4. Activities planned throughout the school year to encourage parental involvement.
  - 5. A system to allow the parents and teachers to communicate in a regular, two-way, and meaningful manner with the child's teacher and the school principal.
  - 6. A calendar of scheduled school events which parents are encouraged to attend.
- B. Schedule at least two parent teacher conferences per year, one each semester of the school year.
- C. Plan and engage in activities which will be beneficial in encouraging communication with parents while promoting responsible parenting.
  - 1. Purchase parenting books, magazines and other informative material regarding responsible parenting through the parent center and give parents an opportunity to borrow the materials to review.
  - 2. Give parents parenting books on assisting with homework and other topics concerning effective parenting.
  - 3. Create a school newsletter to be distributed to all parents.
  - 4. Send home a monthly calendar of scheduled school and class events.
  - 5. Publish a notice in the local newspaper honoring parents who attend the scheduled events.
  - 6. Maintain a parent center and update as funds become available. Teachers will refer parents to the parent center if the student has problems that may be addressed through the parent center.
- D. Acknowledge that parents play an integral role in assisting student learning. To help parents assist students, Drew Central High School will include a "Parents Make the Difference" where parents are given a report on the state of the school and an overview of curriculum, assessment, expectations of both parents and teachers, and how parents can assist and make a difference in his or her child's education..
  - 1. Schedule an Open-house meeting for parents the week before school begins.

2. In the spring, support a Career Action Planning day for parents.
- E. Welcome parents into Drew Central High School.
1. Give the parents access to our policy which encourages parents to:
    - a) Visit a child's classroom during regular school hours and scheduled events.
    - b) Pick up a child if necessary either outside the school building at regular pick-up places or through a check-out system in the office.
    - c) Visit with the counselor/and or principal regularly or if a need arises.
  2. Publish a volunteer resource book through the Parent Center that lists and matches the interests and availability of volunteers to school staff members. The survey that shows parental interests, frequency of wish to participate (may be only once a year), and listing options for those available to work at home will be included.
    - a) A volunteer sign-in sheet in the resource book will be located in the parent center office.
    - b) Parents entering the building will be encouraged to volunteer their services.
    - c) The resource list and survey will be included in the resource book.
    - d) Training will be provided for volunteers annually who assist in an instructional program for parents.
  3. Make available statements attesting to the school district's commitment to parental involvement by including such statements in the Drew Central High School handbook that is given to every student at the time of the student's entry in the school each year.
- F. Recognize that a parent is a full partner in the decisions that affect his or her child and family by publishing the school's process for resolving parental concerns (defining the problem, the chain of command, and how to develop solutions) in the Drew Central High School's handbook.
1. Parental conferences will be scheduled at times agreed upon by the parents, teachers, and or principal.
  2. Include parents on the handbook committee at each school to review and update handbook annually.
  3. Extra copies of the school's handbook will be distributed upon requests.
- G. Recognize that community resources strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning and will take advantage of community resources.
1. A parent advisory commission made up of alumni parents and current parents will be established to provide advice and guidance for school improvement.
  2. Involve school/community patrons in the ACSIP plan for school improvement as participants in advisory capacities.
  3. Work with community/business members to help with and promote activities within the school to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning.
    - a) Ask for volunteers to visit classrooms.
    - b) Ask for monetary or human resource support for activities/programs.
    - c) Ask for referral services.
    - d) Publish partners of Drew Central High School in our newsletters and in the local newspaper.

- H. Support the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of the program to involve parents in the decisions and practices of the school district by including parents in the ACSIP plan, Title I plans, Title VI plans, handbook revisions and in the PTO. Parent evaluation surveys will be disseminated at the end of each year and will be included as a part of the school's evaluations of programs.
- I. The principal(s) of Drew Central High School will designate one certified staff member that is willing to serve as parent facilitator to organize meaningful training for staff and parents promoting and encouraging a welcoming atmosphere to parental involvement.
  - 1. Designate a certified staff member at the beginning of the school year.
  - 2. Seek supplemental payment for the designated employee.
  - 3. Show parental involvement as an asset to the school.
- J. The Drew Central High School will provide (2) two hours of staff development for School District teachers to enhance the understanding of effective parent involvement. These two hours will be included in the teacher's required (60) sixty hours of staff development required by the state.
- K. The Drew Central School District will provide (3) three hours for district administrators of staff development designed to enhance understanding of effective parental involvement strategies and the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation.
- L. The Drew Central High School will annually review and update the parental involvement plan and will give it to the superintendent.
- M. The Drew Central High School's Parental Involvement Plan will be reviewed by the Department of Education as part of the Drew Central School District's Parental Involvement Plan.