



Frederick County Public Schools
Board of Education
PARENT, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Policy 413

A. Policy Purpose

To articulate the importance of encouraging and enabling meaningful and sustained parent, family, and community participation in the educational process.

B. Definitions

1. “Chaperone” is defined to mean a parent or guardian of a participating student or another family member or a member of the community (age 21 or older) who has been approved to accompany and supervise students during the entirety of a field trip.
2. “Community member” is defined to mean any individual who resides in or owns a business, property, or land in Frederick County.
3. “Parent” is defined to mean a biological or adoptive parent, a court-appointed custodian or guardian, a foster parent, or a caregiver (as defined by the Education Article of the Maryland Annotated Code or as designated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement).
4. “Visitor” is defined to mean any individual (employee, parent, child, community member, contractor, etc.) not regularly assigned to a designated site as a staff member or student.
5. “Volunteer” is defined to include parents and other family members of FCPS students, extracurricular club sponsors, as well as other members of the community interested in the education of children who are willing to donate their time and energies to support FCPS students.

C. Policy Statement

The Board recognizes that the involvement of families and community members plays a vital role in the academic and social development of students. A strong partnership between schools, families, and community members is essential for ensuring that all students succeed. This Policy reflects the Board’s commitment to supporting initiatives that strengthen parent, family, and community member engagement, improve two-way communication, encourage shared responsibility for student learning and well-being, and establish a clear, safe, and consistent participation of non-staff individuals in schools.

D. Implementation

1. The Board recognizes that there are a number of ways that parents, families, and community members can engage in supporting the education of FCPS’s students. This

may include visiting a school to support student participation in an activity, volunteering, serving as a field trip chaperone, being a guest speaker, entering into an informal or formal partnership, participating in the Parent Teacher Association or Parent Teacher Student Association, making a donation to an athletic or club booster, participating on Board committees, etc.

2. **Visitors.** The Board's expectation is that visitors to FCPS, in whatever capacity, will behave appropriately. This includes complying with federal, state, and local law intended to protect student safety and privacy. Consistent with this expectation, FCPS is directed to ensure visitors are appropriately supervised and staff are appropriately trained regarding how to manage visitors to FCPS facilities.
3. **Volunteers.** The Board's expectation is that volunteers are appropriately trained regarding student safety, confidentiality, building procedures, and relevant Board policies and FCPS regulations.
4. **Families.** Parents and families are encouraged to participate in their student's education. To encourage that participation, the Board's expectation is that FCPS will conscientiously strive to involve families of children of all ages and grade levels in program planning, decision-making, and advising with a focus on the effectiveness and influence of family and community engagement. This may include seeking input from families related to school procedures and programs, offering opportunities to families to serve on school committees and other decision-making bodies, and offering resources, trainings, and workshops for families to build their capacity to support their children outside of the school.
5. **Community Members.** Individual community members are encouraged to participate in the education of FCPS students in a similar fashion as are families, but with the broader perspective of supporting all FCPS students and not necessarily a single student.
6. **Advisory Committees.** The Board encourages students, parents, and community members to engage in the education governance process by serving on advisory committees that provide input to the Board, as outlined in section D(3) of [Board Policy 101, Organization of the Board](#), and the [Board's website](#).
7. The Superintendent is directed to implement regulations establishing guidelines and procedures to promote parent, family, and community engagement and participation in FCPS in whatever form that may take, with a focus on enhancing communication and ensuring culturally responsive and inclusive engagement.

E. Related Information

1. **Board Policy**
 - a. [Policy 101, Organization of the Board](#)
(<https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/101>)

- b. [Policy 110, *Attendance at School-Sponsored Activities: FCPS Employees, Senior Citizens and FCPS Retirees*](https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/110)
(https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/110)
- c. [Policy 113, *Scholarship Programs*](https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/113)
(https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/113)
- d. [Policy 203, *Facilities and Grounds*](https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/203)
(https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/203)
- e. [Policy 412, *Business Partnerships*](https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/412)
(https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/412)
- f. [Policy 414, *Field Trips*](https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/414)
(https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/414)
- g. [Policy 426, *Fundraising, Donations, and Gifts*](https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/426)
(https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/426)
- h. [Policy 432, *Guest Speakers*](https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/432)
(https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/432)

2. External Resources

- a. [Maryland PTA](https://fcps-md.info/MD_PTA)
(https://fcps-md.info/MD_PTA)
- b. [Maryland State Department of Education \(MSDE\), *Maryland's PreK – 12 Family Engagement Framework: A Shared Responsibility* \(2016\)](https://fcps-md.info/MSDE_Family_Engagement)
(https://fcps-md.info/MSDE_Family_Engagement)
- c. [National PTA / National Standards for Family-School Partnerships](https://fcps-md.info/PTA_National_Standards)
(https://fcps-md.info/PTA_National_Standards)
- d. [US Department of Education / Family Partnership and Engagement](https://fcps-md.info/US_DOE_Family_Engagement)
(https://fcps-md.info/US_DOE_Family_Engagement)

3. FCPS Regulations

- a. [Regulation 111-02, *School Security and Facility Access*](https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/111-02) (formerly 200-29)
(https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/111-02)
- b. [Regulation 203-01, *Rental of School Facilities*](https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/203-01) (formerly 100-01)
(https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/203-01)
- c. [Regulation 301-03, *Technology Use, Staff*](https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/301-03) (formerly 300-45)
(https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/301-03)
- d. [Regulation 400-76, *Volunteer Involvement: Computer-Related Technology Guidelines*](https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/400-76)
(https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/400-76)
- e. [Regulation 413-01, *Volunteers in Schools*](https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/413-01) (formerly 400-86)
(https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/413-01)
- f. [Regulation 414-01, *Field Trips*](https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/414-01) (formerly 400-05)
(https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/414-01)
- g. [Regulation 426-02, *Donations and Gifts*](https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/426-02) (formerly 200-33)
(https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/426-02)
- h. [Regulation 432-01, *Guest Speakers*](https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/432-01) (formerly 300-12)
(https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/432-01)

4. FCPS Resources

- a. [FCPS / About / News / Community Bulletin Board](https://www.fcps.org/about/news/community_bulletin_board)
(https://www.fcps.org/about/news/community_bulletin_board)
- b. [FCPS / About / Reports & Publications](https://www.fcps.org/about/reports_publications)
(https://www.fcps.org/about/reports_publications)
- c. [FCPS / Board of Education / Board Committees & Citizen Involvement](https://www.fcps.org/board_of_education/board_committees_citizen_involvement)
(https://www.fcps.org/board_of_education/board_committees_citizen_involvement)
- d. [FCPS / Connect with FCPS / Concern Resolution for Students and Families](https://www.fcps.org/connect_with_fcps/concern_resolution_for_students_and_families)
(https://www.fcps.org/connect_with_fcps/concern_resolution_for_students_and_families)
- e. [FCPS / Families & Students / Family & Community Involvement](https://www.fcps.org/families_students/family_community_involvement)
(https://www.fcps.org/families_students/family_community_involvement)
- f. [FCPS / Families & Students / Health Council Wellness Resources / Community Involvement](https://www.fcps.org/families_students/health_council_wellness_resources_community_involvement)
(https://www.fcps.org/families_students/health_council_wellness_resources/community_involvement)
- g. [FCPS / Schools / Community Schools](https://www.fcps.org/schools/community_schools)
(https://www.fcps.org/schools/community_schools)
- h. [FCPS / Schools / STAR Schools/Title I](https://www.fcps.org/schools/star_schools_title_i)
(https://www.fcps.org/schools/star_schools_title_i)

5. **Federal Law**

- a. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), 20 USC 6301, *et seq.* (2015)

6. **Maryland Statutes**

- a. Md. Code Ann., Education, D. II, T. 9.9

F. Policy History (Maintained by Legal Services)

<i>Responsible Office</i>	Public Affairs
Adoption Dates	11/16/92
Review Dates	12/09/09
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