

**830 Public Participation in the Schools**

**831 Parent Involvement**

Given the key role of parents in promoting effective schooling, the Anchorage School District will assist schools in developing comprehensive, continuing programs of parent involvement at all grade levels. The major goal is to promote greater student success in all curricular areas by making schools and parents more productive partners in their children's education. To support the mission of Anchorage schools to educate all students effectively, schools and parents must work as knowledgeable partners.

a. Comprehensive programs of parent involvement require schools to involve parents at all grade levels in a variety of roles. These programs should be designed to:

- (1) Help parents develop parenting skills and foster conditions at home that support their children's efforts in learning.
- (2) Provide parents with the knowledge of techniques designed to assist their children in learning at home.
- (3) Provide access to and coordinate community and support services for children and families.
- (4) Promote clear two-way communication between school and family about school programs and children's progress.
- (5) Involve parents in instructional and support roles at the school.
- (6) Support parents as decision makers and develop their leadership in governance, advisory, and advocacy roles.

These six types of involvement are not mutually exclusive and require a coordinated schoolwide effort. Success cannot be the sole responsibility of any single program (for example, Title 1) or group of individuals. Although parents

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come to the schools with diverse cultures, languages, and needs, they overwhelmingly share the school's commitment to the educational success of their children. The District and schools, in collaboration with parents, must establish and develop programs and practices that enhance parent involvement and reflect the specific needs of students and families.

b. The District will support schools and programs in their efforts by:

(1) Publicizing its commitment to parent involvement in the public schools.

(2) Identifying promising programs and practices related to parent involvement.

(3) Targeting funds for the development of programs, demonstration projects, and evaluations.

(4) Providing technical assistance and support to develop effective parent involvement programs by:

a) Disseminating information and research on parent involvement and effective practices;

b) Developing in-service education programs on cultural awareness and parent involvement for teachers and administrators, that will assist in meeting the individual needs of diverse cultural and linguistic populations; and

c) Working with colleges and universities that train teachers and administrators to develop effective pre-service programs in school and family connections.

(5) Complying with state and federal parent involvement requirements by:

a) Incorporating specific program criteria for effective parent involvement into the programs; (procedural manuals will include

specific guidelines for parental involvement by program) i.e., Title 1, Bilingual Education, Indian Education, Migrant Education, Special Education, the Gifted Program, and Community Education Department; and

- b) Providing ongoing follow-up and evaluation of the parent involvement efforts as required.

(Section 442.4 - Added June 12, 1989)

**832 ~~831~~ The Public In or At the School**

The Board encourages local citizens representing various occupations and interests to visit the schools periodically to share their expertise and interests with students in classrooms or in assemblies as appropriate.

The appearance of speakers on behalf of any religious, philanthropic, charitable, or political activity shall, prior to the appearance, be cleared with the Superintendent or his/her designee.

**832.1 ~~831.1~~ Guidelines for Use of Resource Persons**

- a. Any resource person to be utilized in the classroom must have the prior approval of the principal.
- b. When candidates for political office are used as resource people, the following criteria should be used:
  - (1) Limited to the academic classroom, or an assembly as appropriate; or
  - (2) Topics must be pertinent to the curriculum area under discussion in the classroom; or current ballot issues and other current events; or
  - (3) If one major political position or candidate is presented or invited, equal time must be provided, under the same conditions, to the other major positions or candidates. This includes candidates and sponsors of initiatives or ballot propositions.

**832.2 ~~831.2~~ Promotion and Advertising**

It is the policy of the District not to permit any advertising, function, or activity which has a motive of profit to a private individual, firm, or corporation unless specifically approved by the Superintendent or designee. Advertising placed on vending machines, athletic fields, yearbooks, newspapers, and other places in the District must have the approval of the principal after discussion with the Superintendent or designee.

**832.21 ~~831.21~~ Commercially Sponsored Programs**

The media will be permitted to broadcast local athletic contests upon approval of the principal of the sponsoring school and in accordance with Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA) rules.

**832.22 ~~831.22~~ Commercial Publications and Materials**

Materials from businesses and commercial interests may be utilized in the classroom with approval of the principal provided their contents are predominately educational rather than promotional. Commercially prepared materials must be balanced in presentation to insure that all perspectives are represented.

**832.23 ~~831.23~~ Special Promotions**

Admission of advertising and announcements of an educational or charitable nature from non-school groups will be left to the discretion of the Superintendent, and any request of a general nature must be cleared through his/her office. PTA/PTSA or other parent organization functions may be advertised at the discretion of the principal.

**832.3 ~~831.3~~ Citizen's Assistance to School Personnel**

The Board approves and encourages the use of volunteers in all areas of the school system where the talents, abilities, and willingness of volunteers provides a benefit to the District and its students.

Citizens who wish to volunteer their time and talents to serve in schools are encouraged and their services are coordinated through

the unit principal for those categories of activities for which the Superintendent or authorized designee has approved volunteer contributions.

The Board encourages all schools to involve parents directly in the educational program of their children.

The Superintendent shall have the authority to form or authorize temporary committees or task forces, including members who are not employees, to aid the Administration in formulating plans for carrying on the work of the District. The work of such committees or task forces shall be advisory only and without expense to the District, unless specific funds are budgeted.

(Section 831.3 - Revised March 16, 1987)

**832.4 ~~831.4~~ Trespassing**

(See Policy Section 455)

**833 Gifts and Donations**

- a. The Board welcomes donations from individuals, school and community organizations, and businesses in order to provide additional opportunities to the students that are outside the budget. Gifts contributed by organizations or individuals must be approved by the respective principal of the school receiving the gift, or by the appropriate department/program director. The principal or director will notify the Assistant Superintendent.
- b. Any real or personal property donated to the District or to a particular school shall be considered school property. The gift is unconditional and the property may be transferred or used wherever the Superintendent or his/her designee finds desirable and may be sold or replaced without obligation to the donor.
- c. Recognition of the gift or donation will be made at the school or department/program level. If the gift or donation value exceeds a minimum amount set by the Superintendent, or if special circumstances exist, formal recognition will be made by the School Board or the

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Administration. Groups intending to make a number of donations throughout the year may indicate such and receive formal recognition at the end of the year. Appropriate plates, markers, or other means of identifying the donor may be used.

(Section 833 - Revised January 31, 1994)