

2016-2017 Pittsburgh Brashear's Parent Involvement Policy

The School District of Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Brashear High School recognize that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and the family and agrees to effectively educate all students. The school, parent/guardian, and community must work together as knowledgeable partners in meeting this responsibility.

Considering the identified needs of our students, Pittsburgh Brashear High School in conjunction with parents has developed a parental involvement policy that will support the participation of families in a variety of ways. Each May, a sub group of parents and staff will be invited to review and revise the Parent Involvement Policy and the Home School Compact. During the First PSCC meeting the following school year, the PSCC will review and approve the Parent Involvement Policy and Home-School Compact. The compact is developed to outline how parents/guardians, the students, and the teachers will work together to promote excellence for all. The policy and compact will be sent home with every student and be made available at school activities such as Back to School Night, Open House, Parent-Teacher Conferences, PSCC Meetings, and other various activities where families will be present. An electronic message and a letter from the administration will inform families that the document will be sent home for families to review, sign, and return. All signed compacts will be kept on record in the school for review as requested.

Parent/guardian and family involvement is an ongoing process that assists families in meeting basic obligations as their children's first educators. Pittsburgh Brashear's open door policy promotes two way communications between school and home. It also supports family participation in the shared decision making at all grade levels concerning the education of the children. A parent resource room will be a vehicle to provide parents with information on local services, assistance with career planning, life skills, tips for managing child's behavior, use of a computer, area for sub committees to meet for school planning, and borrowing materials on parenting, educational issues, and specific content area.

At the beginning of this school year, Pittsburgh Brashear will host a Welcome Back to School Night. The leadership team will be present and open to answering questions or concerns. The Pittsburgh Promise will also be available to present information to all parents. The parents of 9th and 10th grade students will have the opportunity to meet the members of the Promise Readiness Corps (PRC). This is a tightly knit team of highly effective teachers and staff that will transition a cohort of approximately 340 9th grade students as they enter high school, supporting them through their 9th and 10th grade years and delivering them to 11th grade Promise Ready. All Parents/guardians will be encouraged to participate in the Parent School Community Council (PSCC).

The PSCC is an advisory council for the administration, made up of parents, community members, and staff. Monthly PSCC meetings will be held on the third Monday of each month. PSCC meetings will be held at the school, beginning with dinner at 5:30. With advanced notice, child care and transportation can be provided. Responsibilities of PSCC are, but not limited to, assisting with the development of the School Improvement document, promote and facilitate partnerships with local community agencies, and inform school of community issues that might have an impact on student achievement.

The annual title I meeting was held during the first PSCC meeting, September 19th, 2015. Parents were given an explanation of the Title I program, Title I requirements and parents' rights to be involved as well as given information regarding filing complaints. During this time, two Title I parent/guardian representatives were selected to serve as Pittsburgh Brashear High School Representatives on the District Wide Excellence for All Steering Committee.

Parents will be encouraged to volunteer in the areas of PSCC membership, Pittsburgh Brashear Excellence for All Parent Committee Representative, taking the Annual Parent Survey, co-sponsoring a student club, tutoring, and afterschool homework help. Parents and community members wishing to volunteer must apply for child abuse, criminal and FBI certifications. Parents who have been residents of Pennsylvania for 10 consecutive years can complete a waiver in lieu of the FBI. Our parent resource room will be available for individuals and groups to learn of more specific volunteer opportunities. All volunteers must adhere to the specific policies and procedures found in the parent volunteer policy.

Information regarding the curriculum will be provided for parent/guardian review. This information will also be kept on file at the school for PSCC/Title I representative review. Additionally, families will be encouraged to attend parent trainings during the regularly scheduled PSCC meetings. These sessions will support their child's achievement and keep families updated about the progress of the Title I program. These sessions may include topics such as curriculum, Keystone Strategies, technology, character education, first aid/safety, and parenting skills. All meeting records and school activities will be documented for future reference and review. Invitations to these sessions and all other parental involvement opportunities will be sent to families via email, monthly mailings, community involvement as well as school and district information will be made available via Pittsburgh Brashear website.

All documents from PSCC will be uploaded to the Pittsburgh Brashear website. Clearance links for parent access will also be uploaded to the site.