

**Cambridge Public Schools  
Family Involvement Policy  
2009– 2010**

**Policy Statement**

The goal of Family Involvement is the development of a partnership between home and school that ensures all children become successful lifelong learners.

**Mission Statement**

The Cambridge School system is committed to providing your children with high quality education. This system recognizes that families are their children's first teachers. As each of us desires and deserves respect for our family and cultural differences, we encourage each student, family member and educator to be sensitive to and respectful of human differences in the entire school community.

**The Responsibilities Of the School Are To:**

- Develop with and distribute to parents a written parental involvement policy.
- Notify parents of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and to the extent practicable, provide it in a language that the parents can understand. Such policy shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.
- Hold an annual meeting at a convenient time to which all parents are invited and encouraged to attend to inform parents of their school's participation in Title I and to explain the requirements and rights of parents.
- Offer a flexible number of meetings in the morning or evening.
- Involve parents in the planning, review and improvement of programs including the review and improvement of the school parental involvement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan.
- Develop a school – parent compact that outlines the responsibilities of student, teacher, and parent/guardian for improved student academic achievement and to achieve the state's high standards.

**The Cambridge Public Schools recognizes the need for meaningful opportunities for family involvement and training. Consequently, family activities reflect the following opportunities:**

- The Cambridge Public Schools will ask parents to participate in: a) developing its plan and family involvement budget and b) in evaluating the program and family involvement activities annually.
- The Cambridge Public Schools will develop and maintain informational trainings for families to enable them to help their children be successful in school. When possible, these trainings will be coordinated with each Title I School's Family Liaison/Coordinator and integrated into the school's family education program.

**The Cambridge Public Schools also recognizes the importance of developing and maintaining effective program-parent communication. Therefore, communication will be as follows:**

- The Cambridge Public Schools will make appropriate program information available to parents in as many ways as possible: through mailings, Open Houses, meetings in each school, publications, and at training sessions.
- The Cambridge Public Schools will make this program information available to all parents in a timely fashion. Documents will be translated into Spanish, Portuguese, and others as needed.
- The Cambridge Public Schools strongly believes in the importance of building parent involvement city-wide. As a result, family involvement strategies will be coordinated and integrated as follows:
  - The Cambridge Public Schools will support, offer technical assistance and help coordinate the planning and implementation of strong parent involvement in all Title I schools.
  - The Cambridge Public Schools will coordinate and integrate its parent involvement policies and strategies with pre-school and literacy programs that service the Cambridge community.

**AS A PARENT, YOUR INVOLVEMENT IS ESSENTIAL. THE CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL SYSTEM  
ENCOURAGES ALL FAMILIES TO:**

-become aware of what your child is learning -ask questions about your child's education -support your child's learning.