

# ***Athens Area Schools***

## **School-Parent Involvement Plan**

Athens Area Schools believe that the education of children is a joint responsibility, one it shares with the parents of the school community. To ensure that the best interests of the child are served in this process, a strong program of communication between home and school must be maintained.

The parents have the right to participate in the education of their children as well as the ultimate responsibility for their children's in-school behavior, including the behavior of students who have reached the legal age of majority, but are still, for all practical purposes, under parental authority.

The District shall provide the opportunity for parents to review curriculum and instructional materials and to visit the school to observe the instructional process. Parents also are welcome to participate in school improvement meetings. Parents are encouraged to provide feedback through surveys, blogs, e-mail and through meetings. Parents should contact the school office, Principal, Curriculum Director or Superintendent to participate in these ways.

Parents are encouraged and welcome to participate as chaperons on field trips, room parents, classroom volunteers, and school volunteers. Furthermore, parents are encouraged and welcome to attend assemblies and special events held by the school.

With regard to student behavior, during school hours, the Board, through its designated administrators, acts in loco parentis or in place of the parents.

The following activities have been implemented to encourage parent-school cooperation:

- A. parent-teacher conferences to permit two-way communication between home and school
- B. meetings of staff members and groups of parents of those students having special abilities, disabilities, needs, or problems
- C. special events of a cultural, ethnic, or topical nature which are initiated by parent groups, involve the cooperative effort of students and parents, and are of general interest to the schools or community
- D. open houses in District schools to provide parents with the opportunity to see the school facilities, meet the faculty, and sample the program on a first hand basis

For the benefit of children, Athens Area Schools believe that parents have a responsibility to encourage their child's career in school by:

- A. supporting the schools in requiring that the children observe all school rules and regulations, and by accepting their own responsibility for children's willful in-school behavior;
- B. sending children to school with proper attention to their health, personal cleanliness, and dress;
- C. maintaining an active interest in the student's daily work and making it possible for the student to complete assigned homework by providing a quiet place and suitable conditions for study;
- D. reading all communications from the school, signing, and returning them promptly when required;
- E. cooperating with the school in attending conferences set up for the exchange of information of the child's progress in school.

### **School Visitors**

The Athens Area Schools welcomes and encourages visits to school by parents, other adult residents of the community and interested educators. But in order for the educational program to continue undisturbed when visitors are present and to prevent the intrusion of disruptive persons into the schools, it is necessary to establish visitor guidelines.

The Superintendent or the principal has the authority to prohibit the entry of any person to a school of this District or to expel any person when there is reason to believe the presence of such person would be detrimental to the good order of the school. If such an individual refuses to leave the school grounds or creates a disturbance, the

principal is authorized to request from the local law enforcement agency whatever assistance is required to remove the individual.

Parents/Guardians, who are registered sex offenders and wish to participate in their child's school activities, may be allowed on campus at the discretion and under the direction of the principal. Conditions may be imposed, including but not limited to the following: must have prior permission, must check in, must have approved escort in building or at event, must leave premises immediately upon conclusion of business, and may not visit while school is in session.

Non-staff access to students and classes must be limited and only in accordance with a schedule which has been determined by the principal after consultation with the teacher whose classroom is being visited. Classroom visitations must be non-obtrusive to the educative process and learning environment and should not occur on an excessive basis.

## **Public Attendance at School Events**

The Athens Area Schools welcomes the attendance of members of the community at athletic and other public events held by the schools in the District, but also acknowledges its duty to maintain order and preserve the facilities of the District during the conduct of such events.

The Board of Education directs that no alcoholic beverage or other controlled substance be possessed, consumed, or distributed nor any betting occur at any function sponsored by the District or at any function occurring on District premises.

Raffles and similar forms of fund-raising by District-related organizations may be permitted by the Superintendent in accordance with Policy 9211 - District Support Organizations and Policy [9700](#) - Relations with Special Interest Groups.

The Board holds the legal authority to bar the attendance of or remove any person whose conduct may constitute a disruption at a school event. School administrators have the authority to call law enforcement officials if a person violates posted regulations or does not leave school property when requested. They are also authorized to use detectors and other devices to better ensure the safety and well-being of participants and visitors.

If a student or adult is asked to leave or is removed from a school event, no admission fees shall be refunded.

Service animals used by persons requiring this type of assistance shall be permitted in all District facilities and at all school events. The person may be asked to provide evidence of the animal's certification for that purpose.

The Board is aware of the increasing desire of many parents and other members of an audience to use "cam-corders" and other audio/visual devices at school events. It has no objection, providing their use neither interferes with the conduct of the particular activity nor impinges on the enjoyment of the event by other members of the audience. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to establish rules and procedures governing the use of non-district audio/visual devices and equipment at any District-sponsored event or activity, particularly athletic events, dramatic presentations, and graduation ceremonies. Such rules are to be distributed in such a manner that members of the audience who wish to record the event are aware of the rules early enough to make proper arrangements to obtain their recordings without causing delay or disruption to the activity.

Any person or organization seeking to film students or a school activity which is not a public event shall obtain prior permission from the Superintendent.

The Superintendent shall ensure that all notices, signs, schedules, and other communications about school events contain the following statement:

"Upon request to the Superintendent, the District shall make reasonable accommodation for a disabled person to be able to participate in this activity."

## **Citizens' Advisory Committees**

The Board of Education, in its discretion, shall establish citizens' advisory committees when there is a definite function to be performed. All appointments of citizens to advisory committees shall be approved by the Board. All appointments of staff members to citizens' advisory committees shall be made by the Superintendent. Staff members shall never constitute more than a minority of any such committee. Every effort shall be made to ensure that the makeup of an advisory committee is as truly representative of the community as possible. The

chairperson of an advisory committee shall be chosen from among the lay members. Board members may be ex-officio members of an advisory committee.

There will be a standing Sex Education Advisory Board containing at least 50% non-staff parents that will revise, evaluate and report on sex education at Athens Area Schools. The term of service, co-chairs and members of this board will be determined by the Athens Board of Education.

Specific topics for study or well-defined areas of activities shall be assigned in writing to each committee immediately following its appointment. Upon completing its assignment, a committee either shall be given a new problem or shall be dissolved promptly. No advisory committee shall be permitted to continue for prolonged periods without a definite assignment. Each committee shall be instructed as to the length of time each member is asked to serve, the resources the Board intends to provide, the approximate dates on which the Board wishes it to submit reports, and the approximate date on which the Board wishes it to dissolve. Furthermore, the committee shall be instructed as to the relationship it has to the Board, to individual Board members, to the Superintendent, and to the remainder of the professional staff.

The structure and organization of an advisory committee shall be determined by the Board as appropriate to the assignment. Advisory committees shall be encouraged to draw upon a wide variety of resources both inside and outside the School District. Each committee shall be encouraged to draw upon the talents of other local residents and to recommend to the Board the official appointment of any such additional member(s) as the committee may desire.

Expenditure of District funds by an advisory committee shall be made only upon the prior approval of the Superintendent. Supplies, equipment, and personnel from within the School District may be obtained through the appointed staff resource person.

Correspondence between the Board and its committees shall ordinarily be conducted by the Superintendent.

The Superintendent shall transmit the contents of any communication from a committee to the Board at the next meeting of the Board.

When a committee is ready to submit a report on its assigned topic, the Superintendent shall arrange a meeting for the purpose of receiving the report.

The Board shall have the sole power to dissolve any of its advisory committees and shall reserve the right to exercise this power at any time during the life of any committee.

## **Parent Organizations**

The Board of Education supports all organizations of parents whose objectives are to promote the educational experiences of District students. However, in using the name of the District or its schools and in organizing a group whose identity derives from a school(s) of this District, the parental organization thereby shares responsibility with this Board for the welfare of participating students.

Any new parent organization desiring to use the name or good offices of the District must obtain the approval of the Superintendent as a prerequisite to organizing.

Representatives and members of approved school-related organizations shall in all circumstances be treated by District employees as interested friends of the schools and as supporters of public education in the School District.

Staff members are encouraged to join such organization(s) in their related area(s) of specialization or interest.

The Board relies upon approved organizations to operate in a manner consistent with public expectations for the schools and reserves the right to withdraw sponsorship from organizations which violate the bounds of community taste.