



## **McDowell Elementary - Parent Involvement Policy**

**(SBDM policy # 6.02)**

In recognition that the parent is the child's first and most important teacher, and that the parent's continued involvement is essential for the success of the child, M.E.S is committed to building a strong parent-school partnership. To support the school-parent partnership, the following policies were designed with meaningful consultation from parents of children attending M.E.S.

- 1) At the beginning of the school year, parents/families of all children attending MES will be notified that the school is operating as a Title 1 (NCLB) schoolwide program. The notification will include a copy of the Parent Involvement Policy and the Parent-School learning Compact.
- 2) M.E.S. will call a meeting near the first of the school year, at a time that is convenient to parents. All parents will be invited and encouraged to attend. Materials will be distributed with an explanation of the NCLB (Title 1) Law and how it affects a school and the students. Parents' rights and their expanding roles will be explained.
- 3) A flexible number of meetings will be offered.
- 4) Parents shall be encouraged to volunteer at the school. In order to be in compliance with the volunteer program, the following is required:
  - ✓ A crime check obtained through the Administrative Office of the Courts.
  - ✓ An orientation session including ethics and confidentiality is mandatory for all volunteers.
  - ✓ No parent/volunteer shall be permitted to volunteer in his/her child's room unless extenuating circumstances are present. These shall be dealt with on an individual basis.

The parent should not spend a great amount of time in the child's room because:

- a) The goal is to foster and encourage independence.
- b) The volunteer parent (if volunteering as a classroom tutor/helper) should volunteer in the next higher grade in order to establish goals and expectations for the child next year. Parents will know and learn what children are learning this year but they need to know what lies ahead for the child.
- c) In some instances, discipline has become a problem.

Volunteers shall sign in and out at the office in order to keep a record of the number of volunteer hours and to know who is volunteering in the buildings at any time.

*Please note that while parents are most welcome to check on the progress of their child/children, they should be aware of and understand: just as the principal is responsible for the safety and well being of each and every child at M.E.S., each individual teacher is likewise responsible for the safety, well-being and overall learning/education of each child in that room and under his/her care. Thus, it is necessary to have a visitor's pass before going to your child's classroom.*

- 5) School wide activities shall be coordinated with those of Head Start and the Family Resource Center.
- 6) At the end of the school year, representatives of the school, parents, and student representatives will meet to evaluate, discuss, and assess the effectiveness of the parent involvement program. (Students will evaluate the students' portion of the compact.) Any changes or additions to the policy or compact will be made at this time.
- 7) Documentation of schoolwide parent activities will be gathered and filed by the staff at the school. A copy of the same will be kept at the LEA office.

**NOTE: Please watch for announcements concerning scheduled volunteer trainings offered at the school through the Family Resource Center.**

