

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Policy on Family-School-Community Partnerships

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) recognizes that parents and families are a child's first and most important teachers. When children enter school, the responsibility for their learning is shared by the schools, families, communities, and the children themselves.

Further, the DPI believes that:

- all children deserve to grow up in nurturing, healthy, and safe learning environments in which families are supported in their roles and responsibilities;
- families of all cultures, languages, and incomes care deeply about their children's success; and
- family-school-community collaboration and partnerships benefit all children.

Successful family-school-community partnerships include the following goals:

- Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful.
- Responsible parenting, quality teaching, and caring communities are promoted and supported.
- Families and the community play a key role in helping students learn.
- School staff provide a welcoming environment for parents and other community members and seek their support.
- Parents participate in advocacy and decisions, including budget and curriculum, that affect children and families at the local, district, and state levels.
- Community resources are made available to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning, and community partners participate in helping schools meet their learning goals.

To meet its mission that all school-age children have access to quality educational programs that meet high standards of excellence, the DPI provides leadership and resources to enable communities, schools, and families, including students, to work as knowledgeable partners. Therefore, the DPI:

- educates and expects its staff to promote family-school-community partnerships and community collaborations;
- is responsive to parents and other citizens who contact the DPI for help or to offer suggestions;
- encourages school leaders to create a respectful, safe, and caring school climate welcoming family and community participation;
- promotes and supports education and training for educators, families, and other citizens to develop and maintain partnerships and collaborations for life-long learning; and
- promotes schools and communities that work together to improve student learning and citizenship development.