

## **Community Relations**

### **School, Family, and Community Partnerships**

Definition: “Community” and “community members” are defined as all of Colchester’s residents, businesses, organizations, and places of worship. “Families” are defined as “a child’s primary caregiver(s).”

The Colchester Board of Education believes schools, families, and community members are partners in the education of all children. This partnership is a major factor in improving school effectiveness, quality of education, and academic success. Therefore, the Colchester Public Schools will create and sustain an environment in which parents and other adults are valued as key influences in children's lives and are essential partners in the education of children. Administrators, teachers, families, and community members must work together to increase educational opportunities and to ensure the success of all students.

Families play a vital role in the intellectual, social and emotional growth of their children; therefore, all educators and families must make family involvement in education a priority. The Colchester Board of Education is committed to providing parent education and the tools and resources that will assist families in supporting classroom learning and their children's achievement. The Colchester Public Schools will help parents understand Connecticut’s academic standards, local and state assessments, and the monitoring of their child's progress.

Families are full partners in the decisions that affect their children. Parents and educators have a mutual responsibility to make informed decisions about the education of their students. Families are empowered to advocate for students to ensure they are treated fairly and have equal access to learning opportunities. Colchester Public Schools shall actively enlist parents and community members representative of the Colchester community to participate in decision-making at both the district and the school level.

The Colchester Board of Education commits to the establishment of regular, timely, two-way and meaningful communication between all schools and all families, respecting the diversity and differing needs of families. In addition, the Board of Education will communicate regularly with community members and solicit feedback in a variety of ways.

The Board of Education believes that volunteers are essential to the success of our schools. Collaboration among school, families, and community will be developed and fostered in order to enhance student learning and improve schools. The Colchester Public Schools will actively solicit parents and community members to serve in a variety of roles, who will be received as an integral part of the school community.

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Colchester Public Schools shall provide information and training to all school staff on the contribution families and community members can make to the educational process. The Colchester Board of Education commits to providing support, coordination and training for school staff, parents, and community members to implement and sustain this involvement.

This policy will be reviewed with families, community members, and school personnel annually; feedback from all partners will be solicited to evaluate its content and effectiveness. In addition, the Colchester Board of Education will involve families and community members in the development and implementation of a Title I plan and the process of school review and improvement to meet federal and state laws.