APS Policy Review Team
2110 Washington Blvd
Arlington, VA 22204

TO: Arlington School Board
FROM: Policy Review Team
THROUGH: Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
DATE: December 5, 2025
RE: Proposed revisions to Policy I-11.1 Family and Community Engagement

This policy is up for its regular 5-year review and is scheduled for Board Information on December 18.

Staff are proposing the following changes to Policy I-11.1 Family and Community Engagement.

- Renumber to I-7.2.3.
- Rewrite the opening paragraph.
- Replace the opening section with a new section on APS's commitment to family and community engagement.
- Update the standards for engagement to be more clear.
- Remove section on Responsibilities.
- Add sections on Conditions for Success and Measures of Success.
- Minor technical changes.

This policy was reviewed by the Policy Review Team and the Policy Subcommittee and has been posted for public comment.

The Arlington School Board is committed to fostering student success by partnering with families and the community. These partnerships are essential to creating a supportive, safe, and inclusive learning environment. Arlington Public Schools staff are committed to actively working with families to advance the Family and Community Engagement goals.

Commitment

Arlington Public Schools believes that Family and Community Engagement is foundational to student achievement, well-being, and success. Arlington Public Schools commits to a division-wide approach to family engagement that promotes equity and inclusion, builds trust and collaboration, strengthens the capacity of both families and educators, and embeds engagement into practice. This approach is grounded in the following guiding principles.

Shared Responsibility

Family engagement is a shared responsibility across all Arlington Public Schools leadership, departments, schools, staff, and families. Schools ensure accessible, relevant, and timely communication with families, while families actively support their students' learning and development. This collaboration will be integrated into school policies, strategies, and professional development to ensure sustained efforts and resources for success.

Families have meaningful opportunities to partner with school staff to create and sustain a safe, inclusive, and engaging culture for teaching and learning.

Opportunities for Engagement

Arlington Public Schools will provide families with multiple opportunities to engage in their student's education at school, at home, and within the community. Arlington Public Schools will ensure that these opportunities reflect the full diversity of its families and are responsive to their needs and value the talents they have to offer.

Sustained Engagement

Engagement is continuous throughout a student's time at Arlington Public Schools and evolves as students mature. Arlington Public Schools staff and families must work together to sustain partnership throughout each year and from early childhood through graduation, adapting support strategies as students' needs change.

Standards for Effective Family, School, and Community Engagement

The School Board supports family and community engagement based on the following six standards that reflect how students learn and grow in various contexts.

1. Welcoming all families into the school community - Schools actively foster a welcoming environment where all families feel valued, included, empowered, and connected to each other, to Arlington Public Schools staff, and to what their students are learning and doing in school.
2. Communicating effectively - Arlington Public Schools staff and families engage in regular, meaningful, two-way communication about student learning, well-being and progress. Multiple communication methods will be used to ensure accessibility.

3. Supporting student success - Arlington Public Schools staff and families will work together to support student learning, social and emotional development, and success in both school and home environments.
4. Advocating for every student – Through comprehensive communications by Arlington Public Schoos, families and students are empowered to advocate for equitable treatment and access to learning opportunities, resources, and support.
5. Sharing Responsibility - Arlington Public Schools staff, families, and students are partners in decisions that impact student success and inform policies, practices, and programs across Arlington Public Schools.
6. Collaborating with Community - Arlington Public Schools staff, families, and community members connect students with expanded learning opportunities, resources, community services, and civic participation.

Conditions for Success

Family engagement will be integrated into policies, strategies, and professional development, ensuring sustained efforts and sufficient resources with defined roles and responsibilities. It is the responsibility of all Arlington Public Schools staff to use systemic and integrated approaches.

Build Capacity for Families and Staff

Arlington Public Schools will provide resources and training opportunities for both families and staff to strengthen their ability to work in partnership.

- Empower Families: Arlington Public Schools will engage families as advocates, models, and co-creators of effective partnerships with schools.
- Support Staff: Arlington Public Schools will help staff connect family engagement to student learning and development, honor the expertise families have about their children, and create welcoming school cultures.

Support Inclusive Engagement

- Use a variety of methods at both the division and school/program levels to ensure that all families have the opportunity to give their input.
- Offer interpretation and translation services to support the participation of multilingual families in accordance with School Board Policy K-30 Language Access Services.
- Implement culturally responsive outreach strategies that honor and reflect the values, traditions, and identities of our families.
- Tailor engagement approaches to include families of students with disabilities, gifted learners, English learners, and others whose needs may require differentiated support.

Measures of Success

- Implement measurable goals and track progress in family engagement across schools and departments.
- Continuously gather family feedback through surveys, forums, and other input methods to refine engagement strategies.
- Schools and departments use the above Standards to evaluate actions and outcomes to strengthen partnerships as a component of the annual school planning process.

This policy and its implementation procedures will be reviewed annually, and revisions will be made as needed.

References

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), Title I, Section 1118
School Board Policy K-30 Language Access Services
Policy Implementation Procedure I-7.2.3.30 PIP-1 Communication - Language Access Services
Policy Implementation Procedure I-11.1 PIP-1 Family and Community Engagement
PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships: An Implementation Guide, 2022
Mapp, K. L. & Bergman, E. (2019). Dual capacity-building framework for family-school partnerships (Version 2).

Policy Adoption and Revision History

Adopted September 25, 2014. Effective September 25, 2014
Renumbered (former Policy 10-9) effective July 1, 2018
Revised October 12, 2023. Effective October 12, 2023

The Arlington School Board ~~believes that all students, schools, and programs achieve~~is committed to fostering student success ~~when~~ by partnering with families and the ~~wider~~ community ~~collaborate as equal partners to cultivate trust and advance the mission and vision of Arlington Public Schools~~. These partnerships are essential to creating a supportive, safe, and inclusive learning environment. Arlington Public Schools staff are committed to actively working with families to advance the Family and Community Engagement goals.

~~The Arlington School Board shares a vision for effective family and community engagement to support student learning where:~~

1. ~~Families, schools, and the community continually work together to ensure all students learn and thrive in safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments.~~
2. ~~Schools are friendly, welcoming, and inclusive environments that support family and community members while valuing the talents they have to offer.~~
3. ~~Families and the larger community feel valued by, feel connected to, understand, and support Arlington Public Schools through strong networks built on trust and respect.~~
4. ~~Families and schools engage in partnership activities and work across cultural differences with comfort and ease.~~
5. ~~On-going, two-way communication among individual schools and programs, the school system, families, and the community is the norm.~~
6. ~~Family and community engagement programs and strategies are aligned with federal and state guidelines, current research, and the Arlington Public Schools Strategic Plan.~~

~~**Definition**~~

~~Within Arlington Public Schools, family and community engagement is a shared responsibility of families, schools, and the community to support students and their learning and to nurture students' intellectual, personal, social, and emotional development to help them achieve their full potential.~~

~~Reflecting a systemic approach to education, this definition of family and community engagement is grounded in the following principles:~~

1. ~~Shared responsibility in which~~
   a. ~~Schools are committed to communicating with and engaging families in accessible and meaningful ways, and~~
   b. ~~Families are committed to actively supporting their students' learning and development.~~
2. ~~An enduring commitment, continuous across the student's life, with family and community roles adjusting as students mature into young adulthood.~~
3. ~~Effective connections and opportunities for engagement and learning in multiple settings – at home, in school, and in the community.~~

Commitment

Arlington Public Schools believes that Family and Community Engagement is foundational to student achievement, well-being, and success. Arlington Public Schools commits to a division-wide approach to family engagement that promotes equity and inclusion, builds trust and

collaboration, strengthens the capacity of both families and educators, and embeds engagement into practice. This approach is grounded in the following guiding principles.

Shared Responsibility
Family engagement is a shared responsibility across all Arlington Public Schools leadership, departments, schools, staff, and families. Schools ensure accessible, relevant, and timely communication with families, while families actively support their students' learning and development. This collaboration will be integrated into school policies, strategies, and professional development to ensure sustained efforts and resources for success.

Families have meaningful opportunities to partner with school staff to create and sustain a safe, inclusive, and engaging culture for teaching and learning.

Opportunities for Engagement
Arlington Public Schools will provide families with multiple opportunities to engage in their student's education at school, at home, and within the community. Arlington Public Schools will ensure that these opportunities reflect the full diversity of its families and are responsive to their needs and value the talents they have to offer.

Sustained Engagement
Engagement is continuous throughout a student's time at Arlington Public Schools and evolves as students mature. Arlington Public Schools staff and families must work together to sustain partnership throughout each year and from early childhood through graduation, adapting support strategies as students' needs change.

Formatted: No bullets or numbering

Standards for Effective Family, School, and Community Engagement
The School Board supports family and community engagement ~~that honors the dynamic, multiple, and complementary ways in which~~based on the following six standards that reflect how students learn and grow in various contexts. ~~Arlington Public Schools will actively work to achieve the following goals:~~

1. Welcoming all families into the school community - ~~Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed.~~Schools actively foster a welcoming environment where all families feel valued, included, empowered, and connected to each other, to Arlington Public Schools staff, and to what their students are learning and doing in school.
2. Communicating effectively - Arlington Public Schools staff and families engage in regular, meaningful, ~~responsive,~~ two-way communication about student learning, well-being and progress. ~~and social-emotional development utilizing m~~Multiple communication methods will be used to ensure accessibility.
3. Supporting student success - Arlington Public Schools staff and families ~~have adequate opportunities to collaborate and strengthen their knowledge and skills~~will work together to support student learning, ~~and~~ social and emotional development, and success ~~at~~in both school and ~~at~~ home environments.
4. Advocating for every student - ~~–~~ Through comprehensive communications by Arlington Public Schoos, ~~F~~families and students are empowered to ~~be~~ advocate~~s,~~ for equitable treatment and access to learning opportunities, resources, and support~~to ensure that~~

~~students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities, resources and supports that will ensure their success~~.

5. Sharing Responsibility - Arlington Public Schools staff, families, and students are partners in decisions that ~~affect~~ impact student~~s~~ success and ~~together~~ inform ~~and influence~~ policies, practices, and programs across Arlington Public Schools.
6. Collaborating with Community - Arlington Public Schools staff, families, and community members connect students with~~to~~ expanded learning opportunities, resources, community services, and civic participation.

~~**Responsibilities**~~

~~1. Family and community engagement programs and strategies will be systemic, integrated, and sustained with adequate resources and infrastructure support.~~

~~2. Arlington Public Schools staff will collaborate with families and community members to build effective family and community partnerships.~~
~~3. Arlington Public Schools staff will provide information in a variety of forms and offer multiple avenues for input and participation by families, students, and community members. Arlington Public Schools will ensure that outreach, communication, and capacity building strategies are varied and responsive to the diversity of Arlington Public Schools families and community members.~~
~~4. Arlington Public Schools will provide resources and training opportunities for families and staff in order to build their capacity to work in partnership to support student learning and social and emotional development by~~
~~a. engaging families to become advocates, models, and co-creators of effective partnerships.~~
~~b. supporting staff to connect family engagement to learning and development, honoring family expertise about their children, and creating welcoming cultures.~~
~~5. Arlington Public Schools staff will transparently measure its success using indicators of effective family and community engagement programs and strategies to ensure that the above standards are met.~~

Conditions for Success

Family engagement will be integrated into policies, strategies, and professional development, ensuring sustained efforts and sufficient resources with defined roles and responsibilities. It is the responsibility of all Arlington Public Schools staff to use systemic and integrated approaches.

Build Capacity for Families and Staff

Arlington Public Schools will provide resources and training opportunities for both families and staff to strengthen their ability to work in partnership.

- Empower Families: Arlington Public Schools will engage families as advocates, models, and co-creators of effective partnerships with schools.

Formatted: Outline numbered + Level: 2 + Numbering Style: a, b, c, … + Start at: 1 + Alignment: Left + Aligned at: 0.75" + Indent at: 1"

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt, Font color: Black

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt, Font color: Black

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt, Font color: Black

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt, Font color: Black

Formatted: List Paragraph, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.25" + Indent at: 0.5"

- Support Staff: Arlington Public Schools will help staff connect family engagement to student learning and development, honor the expertise families have about their children, and create welcoming school cultures.

Support Inclusive Engagement

- Use a variety of methods at both the division and school/program levels to ensure that all families have the opportunity to give their input.
- Offer interpretation and translation services to support the participation of multilingual families in accordance with School Board Policy K-30 Language Access Services.
- Implement culturally responsive outreach strategies that honor and reflect the values, traditions, and identities of our families.
- Tailor engagement approaches to include families of students with disabilities, gifted learners, English learners, and others whose needs may require differentiated support.

Measures of Success

- Implement measurable goals and track progress in family engagement across schools and departments.
- Continuously gather family feedback through surveys, forums, and other input methods to refine engagement strategies.
- Schools and departments use the above Standards to evaluate actions and outcomes to strengthen partnerships as a component of the annual school planning process.

This policy and its implementation~~ing~~ procedures will be reviewed annually, and revisions will be made as needed.

References

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), Title I, Section 1118
School Board Policy K-30 Language Access Services
Policy Implementation Procedure I-7.2.3.30 PIP-1 Communication - Language Access Services
Policy Implementation Procedure I-11.1 PIP-1 Family and Community Engagement
PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships: An Implementation Guide, 2022
Mapp, K. L. & Bergman, E. (2019). Dual capacity-building framework for family-school partnerships (Version 2).

Policy Adoption and Revision History

Adopted September 25, 2014. Effective September 25, 2014
Renumbered (former Policy 10-9) effective July 1, 2018
Revised October 12, 2023. Effective October 12, 2023

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt, Font color: Black
Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt, Font color: Black
Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt, Font color: Black
Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt, Font color: Black
Formatted: List Paragraph, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.25" + Indent at: 0.5"
Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt, Font color: Black
Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt, Font color: Black
Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt, Font color: Black
Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt, Font color: Black
Formatted: List Paragraph, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.25" + Indent at: 0.5"
Formatted: Indent: First line: 0.18"
Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt