APS Policy Review Team
2110 Washington Blvd
Arlington, VA 22204

TO: Arlington School Board
FROM: Policy Review Team
THROUGH: Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
DATE: August 22, 2025
RE: Proposed Revisions to Policy Implementation Procedure I-11.1 PIP-1 Family and Community Engagement

This PIP is being revised as part of its regular annual review. The Policy Review Team and School Board Policy Subcommittee are collaboratively providing Board members the opportunity to provide feedback on draft policies.

Feedback is due September 2, 2025.

PIPs will only be reviewed by the Policy Subcommittee if requested by a member of the Board. Feedback may be provided by the deadline above without necessarily requiring a Subcommittee review unless that review is requested. Policies will still require a full Subcommittee review in all instances.

Staff are proposing the following changes to I-11.1 PIP-1 Family and Community Engagement.

- Renumber to I-7.2.3.PIP-1.
- Add new introduction explaining that the PIP covers implementation of the standards in the policy.
- Reformat the goals into a table format.
- Make updates to the procedures associated with each goal to reflect the feedback of the stakeholder committee and provide better clarity to families and community members.
- Minor technical changes.

Board members are encouraged to review Policy B-6 School Board Policy Process for guidance on the content of Policies and PIPs.

Feedback and comments should be emailed to the School Board Policy Subcommittee members (Bethany Zecher Sutton and Zuraya Tapia-Hadley) and Steven Marku (steven.marku@apsva.us).

Standards

The following procedures provide guidance for implementing Family and Community Engagement (FACE) standards, with a focus on adapting support strategies as students' and families' needs evolve over time.

Schools will use a Family Engagement Rubric aligned with these standards to identify opportunities to strengthen partnerships as a component of the annual school planning process.

Goal 1: Welcoming All Families into the School Community	
Families should feel welcomed, valued, and connected to Arlington Public Schools staff, the school community, and student learning.	
Implementation Procedures Associated with this Goal	
Welcoming Atmosphere	Use school spaces to create a friendly and inclusive environment.
Respectful Climate	Foster a respectful and helpful school climate that builds trust between staff and families.
Family Connections	Facilitate relationships among families, encouraging participation in school life.
Barrier Removal	Identify and address barriers (e.g., time, transportation, language) that hinder family involvement.
Multilingualism as an Asset	Highlight and promote the value of multilingualism, ensuring diverse family representation in engagement activities.

Goal 2: Communicating Effectively	
Engage in two-way, meaningful communication about student learning and well-being that respects the cultural and linguistic diversity of families.	
Implementation Procedures Associated with this Goal	
Strategic Communication	Use multiple, accessible methods (e.g., phone calls, emails, in-person meetings, apps) to reach all families.
Culturally Relevant Messaging	Communicate in a language that is both culturally relevant and easily understood by families.
Ongoing Information Sharing	Keep families informed about school events, student progress, and important decisions.
Linking to Learning	Ensure communication connects families to their child's learning and developmental milestones.
Feedback Channels	Regularly survey families and create opportunities for dialogue through in-person, digital, or phone-based means.

Address Communication Barriers	Provide translation services and ensure that all communication methods accommodate diverse family needs.

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Goal 3: Supporting Student Success	
Support student academic and social-emotional success by encouraging collaboration between staff and families.	
Implementation Procedures Associated with this Goal	
Regular Updates on Progress	Communicate regularly about each student's academic and developmental progress.
Informing Families on Standards	Share clear information on curriculum, academic expectations, and school progress.
Providing Learning Resources	Offer families resources to support learning at home, reinforcing academic standards.
Engaging in Learning Opportunities	Involve families in classroom activities and student support programs.
Planning for Transitions and Future	Collaborate with families on transition points such as grade changes and college or career planning.

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Goal 4: Advocating for Every Student	
Empower families to advocate for equitable access to learning opportunities, resources, and support for their students.	
Implementation Procedures Associated with this Goal	
Smoothing Transitions	Assist families with school transitions by offering resources and clear guidance.
System Navigation	Help families understand how Arlington Public Schools functions, including policies, rights, and responsibilities.
Rights and Responsibilities	Ensure families know their rights and responsibilities related to student education.
Capacity Building for Advocacy	Provide families with the tools and knowledge to advocate effectively for their students.
Connecting to System Resources	Guide families to the appropriate resources within Arlington Public Schools, ensuring students' needs are met.

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Goal 5: Sharing Responsibility
Foster a collaborative decision-making process where families, staff, and students partner to influence school policies and programs.

Implementation Procedures Associated with this Goal	
Family Voice in Decision-Making	Ensure that families have opportunities to participate in decisions impacting their children.
Leadership Development	Support families in developing leadership skills that empower them to take active roles in school governance.
Addressing Equity Issues	Proactively address equity concerns by ensuring diverse family perspectives are considered in all decisions.
Inclusive Family Organizations	Promote family organizations (e.g., PTA, advisory councils) that represent all families, reflecting the cultural and linguistic diversity of Arlington Public Schools.

Goal 6: Collaborating with the Community	
Connect students and families to community resources and extended learning opportunities, enriching their educational experience.	
Implementation Procedures Associated with this Goal	
Linking to Resources	Partner with community organizations to provide families with access to services such as healthcare, counseling, and extracurricular activities.
Promoting After-School Programs	Encourage family participation in after-school activities that support academic and social development.
Collaborating with Community Partners	Work with local businesses, civic groups, and nonprofits to support students' learning and development, providing additional resources and services.

References

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 Implementation Procedure Adoption and Revision History

Adopted June 2015
Renumbered (former PIP-10-9.01) effective July 1, 2018
Revised October 12, 2023. Effective October 12, 2023

Standards

The following procedures provide guidance for implementing Family and Community Engagement (FACE) standards, with a focus on adapting support strategies as students' and families' needs evolve over time.

Schools will use a Family Engagement Rubric aligned with these standards to identify opportunities to strengthen partnerships as a component of the annual school planning process.

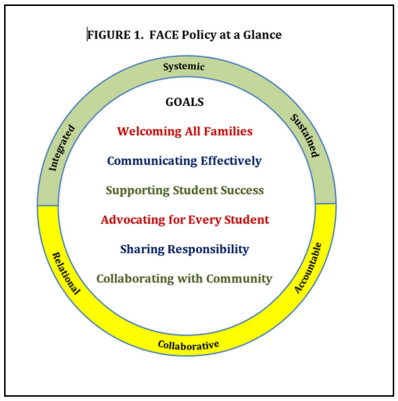
~~The following procedures are intended to support school administrators, teachers, staff, families, and students in developing a common understanding of family and community engagement and in implementing best practices at each school level. These procedures are informed by the most recent research on family engagement and current Parent Teacher Association (PTA) guidelines for school implementation and assessment of the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships. They are also informed by consultations with family and staff stakeholder groups on what strong family and community engagement looks like day to day.~~

~~**A. Definition**~~

~~School Board Policy I-11.1 Family and Community Engagement defines family and community engagement as 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.~~

~~Arlington Public Schools recognizes that effective family and community engagement is fundamental to the success of every student; is a process that changes as children grow; and calls for a variety of pathways for engaging families. Families, schools, and community partners work together to communicate and engage in meaningful ways to actively support students' learning and development.~~

~~Family and Community Engagement (FACE) initiatives will be systematically designed and integrated as a core component of education sustained with adequate resources and infrastructure support. Figure 1 depicts six main FACE goals that Arlington Public Schools is actively working to achieve. The outer ring highlights six key conditions for success that are key to the design of practices that strengthen the capacity of families and school staff to partner in ways that support student success.~~



~~**B. Guidelines for Implementing the Family and Community Engagement Goals**~~

~~Arlington Public Schools supports a family and community engagement process that honors the dynamic, multiple, and complementary ways in which students learn and grow. Working collaboratively with families and communities, Arlington Public Schools staff will actively work to achieve FACE goals using the following guidelines:~~

Goal 1: Welcoming All Families into the School Community	
Families should feel welcomed, valued, and connected to Arlington Public Schools staff, the school community, and student learning.	
Implementation Procedures Associated with this Goal	
Welcoming Atmosphere	Use school spaces to create a friendly and inclusive environment.
Respectful Climate	Foster a respectful and helpful school climate that builds trust between staff and families.
Family Connections	Facilitate relationships among families, encouraging participation in school life.
Barrier Removal	Identify and address barriers (e.g., time, transportation, language) that hinder family involvement.
Multilingualism as an Asset	Highlight and promote the value of multilingualism, ensuring diverse family representation in engagement activities.

Goal 2: Communicating Effectively
Engage in two-way, meaningful communication about student learning and well-being that respects the cultural and linguistic diversity of families.

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Implementation Procedures Associated with this Goal	
Strategic Communication	Use multiple, accessible methods (e.g., phone calls, emails, in-person meetings, apps) to reach all families.
Culturally Relevant Messaging	Communicate in a language that is both culturally relevant and easily understood by families.
Ongoing Information Sharing	Keep families informed about school events, student progress, and important decisions.
Linking to Learning	Ensure communication connects families to their child's learning and developmental milestones.
Feedback Channels	Regularly survey families and create opportunities for dialogue through in-person, digital, or phone-based means.
Address Communication Barriers	Provide translation services and ensure that all communication methods accommodate diverse family needs.

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Goal 3: Supporting Student Success	
Support student academic and social-emotional success by encouraging collaboration between staff and families.	
Implementation Procedures Associated with this Goal	
Regular Updates on Progress	Communicate regularly about each student's academic and developmental progress.
Informing Families on Standards	Share clear information on curriculum, academic expectations, and school progress.
Providing Learning Resources	Offer families resources to support learning at home, reinforcing academic standards.
Engaging in Learning Opportunities	Involve families in classroom activities and student support programs.
Planning for Transitions and Future	Collaborate with families on transition points such as grade changes and college or career planning.

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Goal 4: Advocating for Every Student	
Empower families to advocate for equitable access to learning opportunities, resources, and support for their students.	
Implementation Procedures Associated with this Goal	
Smoothing Transitions	Assist families with school transitions by offering resources and clear guidance.

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System Navigation	Help families understand how Arlington Public Schools functions, including policies, rights, and responsibilities.
Rights and Responsibilities	Ensure families know their rights and responsibilities related to student education.
Capacity Building for Advocacy	Provide families with the tools and knowledge to advocate effectively for their students.
Connecting to System Resources	Guide families to the appropriate resources within Arlington Public Schools, ensuring students' needs are met.

Goal 5: Sharing Responsibility	
Foster a collaborative decision-making process where families, staff, and students partner to influence school policies and programs.	
Implementation Procedures Associated with this Goal	
Family Voice in Decision-Making	Ensure that families have opportunities to participate in decisions impacting their children.
Leadership Development	Support families in developing leadership skills that empower them to take active roles in school governance.
Addressing Equity Issues	Proactively address equity concerns by ensuring diverse family perspectives are considered in all decisions.
Inclusive Family Organizations	Promote family organizations (e.g., PTA, advisory councils) that represent all families, reflecting the cultural and linguistic diversity of Arlington Public Schools.

Goal 6: Collaborating with the Community	
Connect students and families to community resources and extended learning opportunities, enriching their educational experience.	
Implementation Procedures Associated with this Goal	
Linking to Resources	Partner with community organizations to provide families with access to services such as healthcare, counseling, and extracurricular activities.
Promoting After-School Programs	Encourage family participation in after-school activities that support academic and social development.
Collaborating with Community Partners	Work with local businesses, civic groups, and nonprofits to support students' learning and development, providing additional resources and services.

~~**Goal 1 – Welcoming all families into the school community**~~

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Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to Arlington Public Schools staff, and to what students are learning and doing in school.

1. Using physical spaces to create a welcoming atmosphere;
2. Creating a family-friendly, respectful, and helpful school climate;
3. Building trusting relations between school staff and families;
4. Facilitating connections among families;
5. Removing barriers to maximize participation; and
6. Explicitly framing multilingualism as an asset.

Goal 2 – Communicating effectively

Staff and families engage in regular, meaningful, two-way communication about student learning and social emotional development.

1. Using multiple strategic ways to communicate with families;
2. Using culturally relevant and accessible language to communicate;
3. Keeping families informed about important issues and events;
4. Connecting families to what students are doing and learning in school;
5. Surveying families and creating opportunities for listening and open dialogue; and
6. Addressing barriers to communication.

Goal 3 – Supporting student success

Staff and families have opportunities to collaborate and strengthen their knowledge and skills to support student learning and social and emotional development at home and school.

1. Communicating regularly about each student's progress, development, and behavior;
2. Providing information about what students are learning, academic standards, and school progress;
3. Sharing resources to reinforce the learning at home;
4. Engaging families in school learning; and
5. Planning for the future, such as school transitions, course planning, and college and career readiness.

Goal 4 – Advocating for every student

Families and students are empowered to be advocates, to ensure students have access to learning opportunities, resources and supports that will ensure their success.

1. Smoothing transitions;
2. Helping families understand how the school and the school system function;
3. Sharing information about rights and responsibilities;
4. Ensuring families have curricular information;
5. Developing families' and students' capacity to be effective advocates; and
6. Connecting to resources in the school system.

Goal 5 – Sharing responsibility

Arlington Public Schools staff, families, and students are partners in decisions that affect students and together inform and influence policies, practices, and programs.

1. Having a voice in decisions that affect children;
2. Supporting family leadership development;
3. Addressing equity issues; and
4. Developing family organizations that represent all families.

Goal 6 – Collaborating with community

Arlington Public Schools staff, families, and community members connect students to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

1. Linking to community resources;
2. Promoting after-school activities; and
3. Partnering with community groups to support students and their families.

C. Areas of Responsibility for Implementation

The school division, under the overarching guidance of the Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations will provide leadership for districtwide activities, guidance for schools, and learning opportunities that build the capacity of staff and families to partner effectively as detailed and measured in annual plans.

At the school level, the school principal and/or program manager has overall responsibility for ensuring that effective family and community engagement best practices are in place and that these practices reflect how the process changes as children grow.

References

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