



## CPPS Vision for Parent Involvement

In 5 years,

Every parent will feel welcomed at their child's school(s).

- The school's main entrance and office will be clearly marked/signed.
- Signage will help visitors navigate the entire school.
- Signs will be in appropriate languages for the school community.
- School walls will show off students' work (especially art).
- All staff will have a "customer service" orientation in greeting and helping parents and visitors.
- Principals and office staff will be viewed as welcoming in all schools.
- Translation services will be available on the spot in all school offices through a centralized video bank of translators.
- Schools will employ effective strategies to contact "hard-to-reach" parents.
- Schools will sponsor multi-cultural events to help build a feeling of community among all parents.
- Parent organizations, similar to the school, will welcome and engage the full diversity of parents at the school.

Every parent will be connected to their child's school by a multi-media communication system.

- Schools will communicate with parents using a variety of methods (electronic and written).
- Schools/teachers will provide clear, consistent, and timely information at the class/course level on:
  - Academic expectations and course content
  - Assignments/homework
  - Testing schedule
  - What parents can do to reinforce learning at home
- Schools/teachers will provide clear, consistent, and timely information at the individual student level on academic progress and social/behavioral issues.
- Schools will have clear expectations on turnaround time for responding to parent contacts.
- All teachers will use email as a communications medium.
- Portland Public Schools will develop a "best practices" communication system that supports site-specific communication plans at each school.
- Key written materials will be translated into at least five languages.

Every parent will be engaged as collaborative partners in their child's learning.

- Every parent will have access to state content standards, by grade and subject, in language that is easy to understand and free from educational jargon.
- Teachers will communicate course objectives and how these objectives meet state standards.
- (repeat of above) Schools/teachers will provide clear, consistent, and timely information at the individual student level on academic progress.
- Schools/Teachers will communicate to parents on a regular basis the content covered in class, and ways in which parents can reinforce learning at home.
- Schools/teachers will communicate to parents all homework assignments, whether assignments were completed by students, and the grade received.
- Schools/teachers will provide guidance on how parents can assist their children with homework.
- At parent-teacher conferences, parents should learn about course objectives, student strengths and weaknesses, how parents can help address weaknesses at home, and any student behavioral issues.
- Standards-based report cards should be re-engineered so that they are easily understood by both parents and teachers.
- Training on topics such as how to help your child at home, how to get the most out of parent-teacher conferences, and how to advocate for your child will be available at every school.

Every parent will be encouraged to volunteer at their child's school.

- Schools and parent organizations will provide a variety of volunteer opportunities, with appropriate support and training, both within and outside the classroom.
- Schools will clearly communicate to parents the purpose of criminal background checks and which offenses bar parents from volunteering in roles where they help supervise students.

Every parent will be involved in decision-making at their child's school.

- Each school will have a functioning site council, with elected parent representatives.
- Every site council will be having (or attempting to have through their plans) a measurable impact on student achievement.
- PPS will provide training events and on-site consultation to assist site councils.
- Parent site council representatives will regularly communicate with the full parent community on site council issues.
- Each school, from time to time, will engage their parent community in a mission/vision process, and will report back regularly on school progress in achieving that mission/vision.