

NINER UNIVERSITY ELEMENTARY PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Niner University Elementary (“NUE”) recognizes the critical role of parents in the education of their children and in the schools. The NUE principal will develop programs that will promote and support parental involvement in student learning and achievement at school and at home and encourage meaningful academic progress. Each parent is encouraged to learn about the educational program, the educational goals and objectives of NUE, and his or her own child’s progress. The NUE principal also encourages parents to participate in their children’s education and in activities designed by school personnel to involve them, such as parent conferences, in order to foster effective communication between teachers and parents. Parents are responsible for cooperating with school employees to facilitate their children’s compliance with NUE policies and expectations concerning student promotion and accountability, school attendance, and behavior.

For purposes of this policy, the term “parent” includes parents, legal guardians, and legal custodians of students who are under 18 years old and who have not been emancipated.

A. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLANS

1. Parental Involvement Plan

The NUE principal shall develop a plan for the school’s parental involvement program. The principal shall publicize drafts of the parental involvement plan prior to finalization and provide opportunities for input from parents of students in the school. This plan must include, at a minimum, efforts to enhance parental involvement by promoting the following priorities:

- a. regular, meaningful, two-way communication between home and school;
- b. responsible parenting;
- c. involvement of parents in student learning;
- d. parental volunteering in the school;
- e. involvement of parents in school decisions that affect children and families;
- f. parental training based on parents’ informational needs;
- g. collaboration with community agencies and other organizations to provide resources to strengthen school programs, families, and student learning; and
- h. student health awareness among parents by addressing the need for health programs and student health services, which are linked to student learning.

2. Title I Parent and Family Engagement Plan

NUE shall develop, with parents and family members, a school-level written parent and family engagement plan that involves parents in the planning and improvement of Title I activities and describes the means for carrying out school-level policy, sharing responsibility for student academic achievement, building the capacity of school staff and parents for involvement, and increasing accessibility for participation of all parents and family members of children participating in Title I programs. See Policy 1.5, Title I Parent and Family Engagement.

3. Parental Involvement Component of a School Plan for Managing Student Behavior

NUE's plan for managing student behavior should include parental involvement strategies that address when parents will be notified or involved in issues related to their child's behavior.

B. PARENT COMMUNICATION, PARTICIPATION, AND CONFERENCES

1. Communication with Parents

The NUE principal encourages school personnel to have regular contact with parents for informational purposes as well as for commendation of students and notification of concerns. When reasonably necessary, school personnel shall communicate with parents about student behavior issues and about student attendance in accordance with Policy 2.2, Attendance. In addition, parents will be notified promptly if school personnel suspect that a criminal offense has been committed against the parent's child, unless notification would impede an investigation by law enforcement or the child welfare agency.

The NUE principal or designee must effectively communicate to parents the manner in which textbooks are used to implement the school's curricular objectives. Any parent interested in learning more about their child's course of study or the source of any supplementary instructional materials should contact the principal for more information. If a parent would like to inspect and review particular instructional materials, the parent should make such a request in accordance with NUE's policy regarding Parental Inspection of and Objection to Instructional Materials.

The NUE principal also shall ensure that information about the nature and purpose of all clubs and activities, curricular and extracurricular, offered at the school is available on NUE's website.

The NUE principal or designee shall strive, through oral or written communication or other means, to include the parents of students who are at risk of academic failure in the implementation and review of academic and/or behavioral interventions for their children.

The NUE principal or designee shall provide the parent of each student in

kindergarten, first, or second grade with written notification of the student's reading progress. The notice will be provided three times a year, following each benchmark assessment and will include: (1) assessment results, (2) whether the child may not reach reading proficiency by the end of third grade, and (3) instructional support activities for use at home.

2. Parent Participation at Schools

The NUE principal encourages parents to engage in school activities. Parents are welcome to visit the school in accordance with Policy 1.4, Visitors to the School, and, if interested, are urged to participate in school volunteer programs. In addition, the NUE principal will establish opportunities for parents to participate on school advisory council(s).

3. Conferences

Teachers are responsible for scheduling conferences or meetings with parents when reasonably necessary to keep parents informed of issues relating to their child's education. Parents may also contact their child's teacher to schedule a conference or meeting.

C. PARENTAL NOTIFICATION

1. Title I Notifications

The NUE principal shall effectively notify parents of all parental rights and other required information regarding Title I schools and programs, in accordance with federal law. Parents of NUE students shall receive a copy of the Title I Family Engagement Policy (See Policy 1.5) and the school-wide parent involvement plan.

2. Parent Guide for Student Achievement

Each year, the NUE principal or designee shall create a parent guide for student achievement that meets the requirements of state law and the State Board of Education. All parents will receive a written copy of the guide, and information in the guide will be discussed at the beginning of each school year in meetings of students, parents, and teachers. The parent guide for student achievement shall include all policies developed by NUE as provided in G.S. 115C-76.30 and 76.35.

3. Additional Annual Notifications

To the extent applicable, the NUE principal or designee shall annually notify parents of the following information, to the extent that it has not already been provided to parents as part of the parent guide for student achievement:

- a. parental rights related to student records (see Policy 2.3, Student Records);

- b. parental rights related to student surveys;
- c. the approximate dates of any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is: (a) required as a condition of attendance, (b) administered and scheduled in advance by the school administration, and (c) not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of students;
- d. the schedule of pesticide use on school property and their right to request notification of nonscheduled pesticide use;
- e. student behavior policies, including the Code of Student Conduct (see Policy 3.1) and other school standards and rules;
- f. the permissible use of seclusion and restraint in the schools (see Policy 3.3, Seclusion and Restraint);
- g. Policy 3.6, Bullying and Harassment;
- h. the dates of the district-wide and state-mandated tests that students will be required to take during that school year, how the results from the tests will be used, and whether each test is required by the State Board of Education or by the school;
- i. grading practices that will be followed at the school
- j. if applicable, available opportunities and the enrollment process for students to take advanced courses and information explaining the value of taking advanced courses;
- k. if applicable, that their child will be provided advanced learning opportunities in mathematics or will be placed in an advanced mathematics course;
- l. a clear and concise explanation of the North Carolina testing and accountability system that includes all information required by federal law;
- m. a report containing information about the school system and each school, including (to the extent applicable):
 - i. the following information both in the aggregate and disaggregated by category: student achievement, graduation rates, performance on other school quality and/or student success indicators, the progress of students toward meeting long-term goals established by the state, student performance on measures of school climate and safety, and,

- as available, the rate of enrollment in post-secondary education;
- ii. the performance of NUE on academic assessments as compared to the state and school district as a whole;
 - iii. the percentage and number of students who are:
 - 1. assessed,
 - 2. assessed using alternate assessments,
 - 3. involved in preschool and accelerated coursework programs, and
 - 4. English learners achieving proficiency;
 - iv. the per pupil expenditures of federal, state, and local funds; and
 - v. teacher qualifications;
- n. the grade earned by the school on the most recent annual report card issued for it by the State Board of Education if the grade was a D or F;
 - o. supportive services available to students, including health services;
 - p. for parents of students in fifth grade, information about cervical cancer, cervical dysplasia, and human papillomavirus, including the causes and symptoms of these diseases, how they are transmitted, how they may be prevented by vaccination, including the benefits and possible side effects of vaccination, and places parents and guardians may obtain additional information and vaccinations for their children;
 - q. how to reach school officials in emergency situations during non-school hours;
 - r. information about and an application form for free and reduced price meals and/or free milk;
 - s. information about the school breakfast program;
 - t. information about the availability and location of free summer food service program meals for students when school is not in session;
 - u. for parents of children with disabilities, information regarding procedural safeguards;
 - v. information on the availability of the asbestos management plan and planned or in-progress inspections, re-inspections, response actions, and post-response actions, including periodic re-inspection and surveillance activities;

- w. education rights of homeless students;
- x. the content and implementation of the school wellness policy;
- y. that NUE does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or other personal characteristics. Individuals who wish to report bullying or harassing behavior that is addressed by federal law should refer to and follow the reporting processes provided in the NUE Nondiscrimination Notice;
- z. that to the extent that NUE permits youth or secondary programs to use its facilities, programs, or activities for non-educational reasons, NUE shall provide equal access to its facilities, programs, and activities to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups; and

4. Opportunities to Withhold Consent/Opt Out Notifications

As a part of the annual notification described above, parents will be effectively notified that they may opt out of any of the following:

- a. release of student directory information about their child for school purposes or to outside organizations (see Policy 2.3, Student Records);
- b. release of their child's name, address, and telephone listing to military recruiters or institutions of higher education (see Policy 2.3, Student Records);
- c. their child's participation in curricula related to (a) prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS; (b) avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy; or (c) reproductive health and safety education. A copy of the materials that will be used in these curricula will be available in the school during the school year and at other times that the school is open to the public. NUE shall ensure that any such materials are made available for review in accordance with the law;
- d. their child's participation in academic or career guidance or personal or social counseling services of a generic nature offered to groups of students (e.g., peer relations strategies offered to students in a particular grade). However, parental notification and permission are not required for: (a) short-duration academic, career, personal, or social guidance and counseling and crisis intervention that is needed to maintain order, discipline, or a productive learning environment; (b) student-initiated individual or group counseling targeted at a student's specific concerns or

needs; and (c) counseling if child abuse or neglect is suspected;

- e. their child's participation in any protected information survey given as part of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System or National Youth Tobacco Survey;
- f. their child's participation in any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is: (a) required as a condition of attendance; (b) administered and scheduled in advance by the school administration; and (c) not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of students;
- g. the collection, disclosure, or use of their child's personal information for marketing purposes; and
- h. release of their child's free and reduced-price meal information to State Medicaid or State children's health insurance program (SCHIP).

Any parent who wishes to opt out/withhold consent must do so in writing within seven calendar days of the date that notice is provided by NUE. Otherwise, consent to the programs or activities is presumed. After the annual notification, the school is not required to provide further notice to the parent as to the manner in which student directory information is used, the curriculum is provided, or guidance programs are made available.

D. PARENTAL PERMISSION REQUIRED

Written parental permission is required prior to the following activities, to the extent they are offered by NUE:

1. the administration of medications to students by employees of the school system (see Policy 4.2, Administering Medicines to Students);
2. the release of student records that are not considered directory information, unless the release is allowed or required by law (see policy 2.3, Student Records);
3. off-campus trips;
4. students' participation in high-impact or high-risk sports or extracurricular activities;
5. all decisions or actions as required by the IDEA with regard to providing special education or related services to students with disabilities;
6. certain health services, as required by law;
7. participation in a mental health assessment or mental health services under

- circumstances prescribed by federal law;
8. students' participation in programs or services that provide information about where to obtain contraceptives or abortion referral services;
 9. students' participation in surveys that are conducted concerning protected topics (see Policy 2.3, Surveys of Students);
 10. disclosure of students' free and reduced price lunch eligibility information or eligibility status; and

E. PROCEDURES FOR PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN STUDENT HEALTH

1. Parent Notifications Regarding Student Physical and Mental Health

At the beginning of each school year, the NUE principal or designee shall notify parents of:

- i. each health care service offered at their children's schools and the means for parents to provide consent for any specific services;
- ii. acknowledgement that consenting to a health care service does not waive the parents' right to access their children's educational records or health records or to be notified of changes in their children's services or monitoring; and
- iii. the procedures to exercise the parental remedies for concerns related to student health provided by G.S. 115C-76.60 and described below in subsection E.6.

Before administering any well-being questionnaire or health screening form to students in kindergarten through third grade, the principal or designee shall provide parents with a copy of the questionnaire or form and information regarding the means for parents to consent to their children's participation.

The principal or designee shall notify parents of changes in services or monitoring related to their children's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being and the school's ability to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for their children prior to or contemporaneously with the changes being made. In addition, the principal or designee shall notify parents before any changes are made to the names or pronouns used for their children in school records or by school personnel.

No NUE policy, procedure, or form will expressly or otherwise prohibit school employees from notifying parents about their children's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being or a change in related services or monitoring, nor will any NUE policy, procedure, or form intentionally encourage or be designed in a manner that is reasonably likely to have the effect of encouraging any children to withhold from their parents information about their mental, emotional, or physical

health or well-being or a change in related services or monitoring. School personnel shall not discourage or prohibit parental notification of and involvement in critical decisions affecting a student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being.

2. Discussions Related to Student Well-Being

In accordance with the rights of parents provided in Chapter 114A of the General Statutes, when issues of a student's well-being arise, school personnel shall encourage the student to discuss the issues with his or her parent. As appropriate, school personnel may facilitate discussions of such issues with parents.

3. Parent Access to Student Records

Parents will not be prohibited from accessing any of their children's education and health records created, maintained, or used by the school system, except as permitted by law. See Policy 2.3, Student Records.

4. Student Support Services Training

Student support services training developed or provided by NUE to school personnel will adhere to student services guidelines, standards, and frameworks established by the Department of Public Instruction.

5. Instruction on Gender Identity, Sexual Activity, and Sexuality

Instruction on gender identity, sexual activity, or sexuality will not be included in the curriculum provided in kindergarten through fourth grade, regardless of whether the information is provided by school personnel or third parties. For purposes of this subsection, curriculum includes the standard course of study and support materials, locally developed curriculum, supplemental instruction, and textbooks and other supplementary materials, but does not include responses to student-initiated questions.

6. Remedies for Parental Concerns Related to Student Health

If a parent has a concern about the school or school system's procedure or practice under Part 4 of Article 7B of Chapter 115C, as described here in Section E of this policy, the parent should submit the concern in writing to the principal. The principal shall schedule and hold a meeting with the parent within five days after the concern was received. The principal shall conduct any necessary investigation. If possible, the principal should resolve the concern within seven days after the concern was received. If the principal cannot resolve the concern within seven days, the principal shall immediately notify the Dean of the Cato College of Education ("Dean") or designee. The Dean or designee shall assist, as needed, in resolving the concern.

If the concern has not been resolved within fifteen days of receipt, the Dean or designee shall schedule a meeting with the Chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (“Chancellor”), to occur within the next fifteen days. If the concern is not resolved thirty days of receipt, the Chancellor will provide a statement of the reasons for not resolving the concern.

If the concern is not resolved within thirty days of initial receipt, the parent has the right to pursue additional remedies as provided in G.S. 115C-76.60(b).

F. PARENT REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

A parent may request in writing from the NUE principal any of the information the parent has the right to access under Part 3 of Article 7B of Chapter 115C. The principal, within ten business days, shall either provide the requested information to the parent or provide an extension notice to the parent that, due to the volume or complexity of the request, the information will be provided no later than twenty business days from the date of the parental request.

If the principal (1) denies or fails to respond to the request for information within ten business days or (2) fails to provide information within twenty business days following an extension notice, the parent may then submit the written request for information to the Dean, along with a statement specifying the time frame of the denial or failure to provide information by the principal.

If the Dean denies or does not respond to the request for information within ten business days, the parent may appeal the denial or lack of response to the Chancellor no later than twenty business days from the date of the request to the Dean. The Chancellor will schedule a meeting to discuss the parent’s appeal as soon as reasonably possible.

The information in this Section F will be posted on NUE’s website along with the list of parents’ legal rights for their child’s education as described in G.S. 115C-76.25.

G. COMMUNITY SERVICES AVAILABLE

A variety of community services are available to provide parents and families of students with needed information, support, and resources. Parents may utilize applicable community services such as the following: [Charlotte Math Club](#), [Read Charlotte](#), and [North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Parent's Corner](#).

H. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

By September 15 of each year, the NUE principal shall report to the State Board of Education parental involvement information as required by G.S. 115C-76.70.

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