



WESTLAKE PARENT PARTICIPATION POLICY

Introduction

Westlake Charter School (WCS) is committed to excellence in education and providing a safe and nurturing environment for our children. We encourage and expect the dedicated support of our parents to continue to achieve this goal. WCS is counting on all our families to contribute to ensuring an excellent educational experience for our children.

Parents are partners in schooling by virtue of their role as the central provider and overseer of their child's learning and development. Parents are expected to be actively involved in all aspects of their children's education. One of the most important things we can do for children is to allow them to see parents and teachers working together. This helps children realize that there is a bond between home, community, and school. Additionally, Parents who work with the school come to understand their child's education better.

Parent involvement can take many forms including, participation in decision making at the school; representation on committees and groups; and involvement in school and classroom programs. Parent participation contributes to better outcomes for all students; enables the school to respond more effectively to student and family values; (develops/establishes) a partnership between parents and teachers; and enhances the strength and vibrancy of our school.

The development of the parent participation policy is expected to provide a clearer definition of parent participation in schooling, the steps taken to fulfill the parent volunteer hours, and the results of lack of participation.

Policy

Parents are expected to participate in the operation of the school by completing tasks that are directly related to the school program under the direction of school staff to meet the needs of students. To this end, the school asks that all families donate a minimum of 30 hours of their time each school year to assist WCS in achieving its mission. Parents may choose a variety of tasks. A list of tasks have been outlined for you on the *Parent Participation Profile* form and attached to this policy. Tasks can be

Adopted/Ratified: January 14, 2008

Revision Date:

Board Policy # 07-38

shared with other family members and/or friends, as long as you complete the total commitment.

Procedure

Family participation will be reviewed after each trimester and families shall be notified of their progress toward meeting their 30 hour commitment.

Near the end of the first trimester, families not reporting approximately 10 (ten) hours will be noticed by letter, documenting the hours accumulated along with a feedback form to sign and return. The feedback form will provide families with basic information about upcoming volunteer opportunities and allow explanation of any problems or difficulties a family may have in meeting its goal.

Before the end of the second trimester, families who are substantially behind on their volunteer commitment (fewer than 15 hours) will be required to meet with the principal, or the principal's delegate. The purpose of the meeting is to address and resolve any problems and to devise an action plan to assist the family in reaching their goal.

Near the end of the third trimester each family will be notified of the total volunteer hours they have accumulated for the year. Families not achieving the minimum thirty-hour requirement will have their status reviewed by the principal and/or the principal's delegate(s). After a review considering all the circumstances surrounding the shortfall of volunteer hours the principal shall make a recommendation to the board of directors detailing appropriate actions which shall include, but not be limited to, a loss of privileges (the right to vote, hold office, forfeiture of enrollment preference.

Adopted/Ratified: January 14, 2008

Revision Date: