

The National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education (NCPIE) encourages schools to regularly communicate with parents about their child's progress and the educational objectives of the school.

| *How is information communicated in WCSD?*

## COMMUNICATION

District Website:  
[www.wappingersschools.org](http://www.wappingersschools.org)

Individual PTA websites linked through District website

Electronic newsletter  
(sign up to have electronic news emailed to you via District Website)

District Newsletter: "WCSD InPrint"

WCSD "On The Air"

School report cards and parent/teacher conference

PTAs  
(individual units and district council)

Superintendent's public meetings

District committees

Site-based Learning Teams  
(shared decision making teams in each building)

Board of Education meetings

Individual schools' newsletters and flyers



It is our goal to encourage our parents/guardians to participate. At the same time, we must adhere to state and school district regulations protecting our children's safety and insuring necessary learning time.

## RULES FOR VOLUNTEERS

All volunteers must sign in the visitor log upon entering the building.

Any volunteer who wants to help in a classroom must have an appointment and be approved by the classroom teacher and building principal. Unplanned volunteer visits may disturb classroom teaching time and are discouraged.

Parents may require training at the discretion of the school principal and may include issues concerning confidentiality, safety and school protocol.

Volunteers are under the supervisory authority of the building principal.



## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This initiative is an outcome of a program from the National PTA called *The National School of Excellence Award*. Central to this award are six standards: **communication, parenting, student learning, volunteering, school decision making and advocacy, and collaboration with the community.**

We welcome your feedback. We hope that you will see the value of staying involved with your school(s) throughout your student's school years.

To learn more about this program visit PTA.org, or contact the Wappingers PTA council or the Taconic Regional Parent Involvement chair. For further information, contact Gina Mann at Sheafe Road Elementary School, 298-5290.

Sources:

Liontos, L. "How can I be involved in my child's education?" ERIC Parent Brochure. ACCESS ERIC, in association with ERIC Clearinghouse on Educational Management.

"50 ways parents can help schools". Center for School Change, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

# WAPPINGERS

Central School District

# GUIDE

to



# PARENT INVOLVEMENT




A PTA COUNCIL/WCS D  
PARENT INVOLVEMENT INITIATIVE

Research shows that high student achievement and self-esteem are closely related to positive parental participation in education. Our goal is for parents and schools to work together for the success of all children.


*What can I do to become more actively involved with my child's school and education?*

## 27 WAYS TO HELP

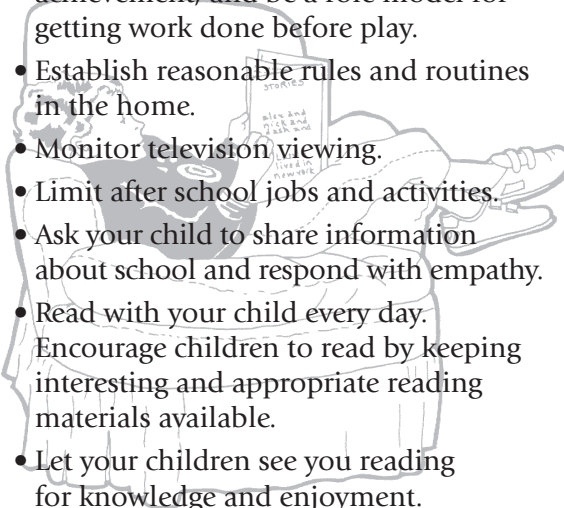
- Share your special skills with your school
- Share information with students about:
  - ★ a hobby
  - ★ your career
  - ★ a country you visited or lived in
- 5 Tutor a child or a group of students
- Help coach an athletic team or lead a troop
- Help with a class or school newsletter
- Form or serve on a playground committee
- Help with student presentations
- 10 Demonstrate international cooking
- Join/start a beautification committee or garden club
- Help promote academic competitions



- Chaperone a field trip
- Be a room representative or room mom/dad/guardian
- 15 Be an advocate. Help in letter-writing to legislators
- Attend unit, council, or regional PTA meetings
- Become an active member of your school PTA or Site-based Learning Team (SLT)
- Attend school board meetings
- Collaborate with businesses to donate materials to school
- 20 Donate materials to school projects
- Help with school fundraisers
- Support student athletic events and musical, visual and performing arts productions
- Help develop a parent resource library, organize parenting classes, or publish parenting articles
- Attend school events for parents such as Parents as Partners and Open Houses and parent/teacher conferences
- 25 Participate in child development workshops
- Ask the teacher for materials to supplement homework
- Communicate with the school principal and teachers to find needs in the school and where parents can help out



*How can I make our home a good place for my child to learn?*

- Hold high expectations for your child's learning and behavior, both at home and at school.
  - Praise and encourage your child.
  - Emphasize the importance of effort and achievement, and be a role model for getting work done before play.
  - Establish reasonable rules and routines in the home.
  - Monitor television viewing.
  - Limit after school jobs and activities.
  - Ask your child to share information about school and respond with empathy.
  - Read with your child every day. Encourage children to read by keeping interesting and appropriate reading materials available.
  - Let your children see you reading for knowledge and enjoyment.
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### HOMWORK SUGGESTIONS

Reward progress, use praise and display good work.

Find out how much and what type of homework is assigned in each class. Ask how students are expected to prepare the assignment and what students can do when they don't understand something.

Help your child develop a reasonable homework schedule.

Talk to your child each day about homework assignments: go over work, see if it's complete and ask questions about it. Please do not do your child's homework.

Provide a suitable study place away from distractions.

Avoid making homework a punishment.