



Indiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Description of Required School Processes

(Teacher Handbook Appendix 7)

Desired Product: Parents and constituents who are proud of Indiana Conference schools and believe they are worth every penny spent supporting them.

9.1 Teachers will give parents weekly updates on their child's performance in school.

Rationale The most accurate predictor of a student's achievement in school is not income or social status, but the extent to which that student's family is able to (a) create a home environment that encourages learning; (b) communicate high, yet reasonable, expectations for their children's achievement and future careers; and (c) become involved in their children's education at school and in the community (Schargel and Smink, 2001).

Decades of research show that when parents are involved students have (National PTA, 1998):

- Higher grades, test scores and graduation rates
- Better school attendance
- Increased motivation, better self-esteem
- Lower rates of suspension
- Decreased use of drugs and alcohol
- Fewer instances of violent behavior

Procedural Guidelines All teachers will put in place both formal and informal mechanisms by which parents are made aware of both positive and negative aspects of their child's behavior and academic performance every full week* of school. As much as possible, teachers should involve the student and his/her parent(s) in this process so as to increase their sense of participation, responsibility and accountability.

Quality Control Mechanisms

1. The Superintendent of Schools will meet with each teacher to determine if that teacher's formal and informal methods of communication meet the expectations of the K-12 Board.
2. The Superintendent of Schools will include questions on the parent survey designed to determine their satisfaction with the teacher's weekly written communication.

References and Definitions National PTA. (1998). *National standards for parent/family involvement programs*. Chicago, IL: National PTA.
Schargel, F. P., & Smink, J. (2001). *Strategies to help solve our school dropout problem*. Larchmont, NY: Eye on Education

*A full week of school is one in which there are five consecutive school days.