

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2012

Legislative Document

No. 1770

S.P. 609

In Senate, January 11, 2012

An Act To Encourage Parental Involvement in Education

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Joseph G. Carleton Jr.

JOSEPH G. CARLETON, JR.
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator ALFOND of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative NELSON of Falmouth and
Senator: GERZOFSKY of Cumberland, Representatives: LOVEJOY of Portland,
McCLELLAN of Raymond, RANKIN of Hiram.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §255, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

3 **6. Parental involvement plans; post.** Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year,
4 the commissioner shall post on the department's publicly accessible website the parental
5 involvement plans submitted by school administrative units pursuant to section 1001,
6 subsection 19. The commissioner shall post on the department's publicly accessible
7 website the names of all schools that do not comply with the requirements of section
8 1001, subsection 19.

9 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §1001, sub-§19** is enacted to read:

10 **19. Parental involvement plan.** Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, a
11 school board shall annually approve a parental involvement plan for the school
12 administrative unit. A school board shall develop the parental involvement plan in
13 consultation with parents, teachers and administrators. The parental involvement plan
14 must promote the involvement of parents, guardians and legal guardians of children
15 enrolled in the school administrative unit in order to improve student achievement. The
16 parental involvement plan approved by the school board under this subsection must
17 include but is not limited to:

18 A. Procedures to improve parental participation in the schools and parent, teacher
19 and administrator cooperation in areas in which parental involvement has been shown
20 to improve student achievement and foster student success, such as academic
21 engagement, homework, attendance and student conduct;

22 B. Procedures by which parents may learn about the school curriculum, courses of
23 study and other instructional programs, including placement in gifted and talented
24 programs, special education programs, career and technical education programs or
25 online learning programs, that are available for their children;

26 C. Procedures by which parents may learn about school policies and practices related
27 to student attendance, student assessment, student report cards, requirements for
28 student promotion and requirements for high school graduation;

29 D. Procedures by which parents may be informed about the nature and purpose of
30 clubs and activities that are part of the school curriculum as well as the cocurricular
31 and extracurricular clubs and activities that have been approved by the school;

32 E. Procedures by which parents may access and review instructional materials and
33 other educational resources that are used by teachers and administrators in promoting
34 the educational performance or development of students;

35 F. Procedures that promote communication between the schools and parents
36 concerning school programs and the academic progress of the parents' children;

37 G. Strategic initiatives and school-based programs that encourage and enable parents
38 to participate actively in their children's education and that promote opportunities for
39 parents to participate in and support classroom instruction and cocurricular and
40 extracurricular activities at the school; and

1 H. Strategic initiatives and school-based programs that support, with appropriate
2 training, parental involvement in school board decision making and that encourage
3 parent membership on school advisory councils.

4 A school board shall annually submit the parental involvement plan approved pursuant to
5 this subsection by August 31st to the commissioner. Beginning with the 2014-2015
6 school year, a school board shall annually consult with parents, teachers and
7 administrators to review the school administrative unit's performance in implementing the
8 parental involvement plan.

9 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §2403, sub-§8** is enacted to read:

10 **8. Parental involvement plans; post.** Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year,
11 the commissioner shall post on the department's publicly accessible website the parental
12 involvement plans submitted by public charter schools pursuant to section 2415,
13 subsection 4. The commissioner shall post on the department's publicly accessible
14 website the names of all public charter schools that do not comply with the requirements
15 of section 2415, subsection 4.

16 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §2415, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

17 **4. Parental involvement plan.** Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, a
18 governing board shall annually approve a parental involvement plan for the public charter
19 school. A governing board shall develop the parental involvement plan in consultation
20 with parents, teachers and administrators. The parental involvement plan must promote
21 the involvement of parents, guardians and legal guardians of children enrolled in the
22 public charter school in order to improve student achievement. The parental involvement
23 plan approved by the governing board under this subsection must include but is not
24 limited to:

25 A. Procedures to improve parental participation in the public charter school and
26 parent, teacher and administrator cooperation in areas in which parental involvement
27 has been shown to improve student achievement and foster student success, such as
28 academic engagement, homework, attendance and student conduct;

29 B. Procedures by which parents may learn about the public charter school
30 curriculum, courses of study and other instructional programs, including placement in
31 gifted and talented programs, special education programs, career and technical
32 education programs or online learning programs, that are available for their children;

33 C. Procedures by which parents may learn about public charter school policies and
34 practices related to student attendance, student assessment, student report cards,
35 requirements for student promotion and requirements for high school graduation;

36 D. Procedures by which parents may be informed about the nature and purpose of
37 clubs and activities that are part of the public charter school curriculum as well as the
38 cocurricular and extracurricular clubs and activities that have been approved by the
39 public charter school;

1 E. Procedures by which parents may access and review instructional materials and
2 other educational resources that are used by teachers and administrators in promoting
3 the educational performance or development of students;

4 F. Procedures that promote communication between the public charter school and
5 parents concerning public charter school programs and the academic progress of the
6 parents' children;

7 G. Strategic initiatives and public charter school-based programs that encourage and
8 enable parents to participate actively in their children's education and that promote
9 opportunities for parents to participate in and support classroom instruction and
10 cocurricular and extracurricular activities at the public charter school; and

11 H. Strategic initiatives and public charter school-based programs that support, with
12 appropriate training, parental involvement in governing board decision making and
13 that encourage parent membership on public charter school advisory councils.

14 A governing board shall annually submit the parental involvement plan approved
15 pursuant to this subsection by August 31st to the commissioner. Beginning with the
16 2014-2015 school year, a governing board shall annually consult with parents, teachers
17 and administrators to review the public charter school's performance in implementing the
18 parental involvement plan.

19 **SUMMARY**

20 This bill requires school administrative units and public charter schools, in
21 consultation with parents, teachers and administrators, to develop a parental involvement
22 plan that promotes student achievement. Each school board and governing board is
23 required to annually approve a parental involvement plan for the school administrative
24 unit and the public charter school and to submit the plan to the Commissioner of
25 Education. The bill also requires the Commissioner of Education to post on the
26 Department of Education's publicly accessible website the names of all schools and
27 public charter schools that do not develop a parental involvement plan.