

PARENTS

WORKING WITH SCHOOLS

AND SCHOOLS WORKING WITH PARENTS

PREAMBLE

The following principles provide common ground for interaction between independent school professionals and their many constituents (parents, students, colleagues at other schools, and the public). The NAIS Principles of Good Practice (PGPs) for member schools define high standards and ethical behavior in key areas of school operations to guide schools in becoming the best education communities they can be, to embed the expectation of professionalism, and to further our sector's core values of transparency, excellence, and inclusivity. The PGPs are not a set of required actions. Rather, membership in NAIS is contingent upon agreement to abide by the spirit of the PGPs which are to be implemented consistently with existing law.

OVERVIEW

Parents and independent schools work together to create and sustain effective partnerships. The following principles describe the respective roles and responsibilities of both partners.

PARENTS WORKING WITH SCHOOLS

- 1 Parents recognize that effective partnerships are characterized by clearly defined responsibilities, a shared commitment to collaboration, open lines of communication, mutual respect, and a common vision of the goals to be reached.
- 2 In selecting an independent school, parents seek an optimal match for the needs of the student, their own expectations, and the philosophy and programs of the school.
- 3 Parents are familiar with and support the school's policies and procedures.
- 4 Parents provide a home environment that supports the development of positive learning attitudes and habits.
- 5 Parents involve themselves in the life of the school.
- 6 Parents seek and value the school's perspective on the student.
- 7 When concerns arise, parents seek information directly from the school, consulting with those best able to address the concerns.
- 8 The school suggests effective ways for parents to support the educational process.

SCHOOLS WORKING WITH PARENTS

- 1 The school recognizes that effective partnerships are characterized by clearly defined responsibilities, a shared commitment to collaboration, open lines of communication, mutual respect, and a common vision of the goals to be reached.
- 2 The school clearly and fully presents its philosophy, program, and practices to parents during the admission process and encourages dialogue that clarifies parental expectations and aspirations for the student.

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- 3 The school seeks and values the parents' perspective on the student.
- 4 Teachers and administrators are accessible to parents and model candid and open dialogue.
- 5 The school keeps parents well informed through systematic reports, conferences, publications, and informal conversations.
- 6 The school defines clearly how it involves parents when considering major decisions that affect the school community.
- 7 The school offers and supports a variety of parent education opportunities.
- 8 The school suggests effective ways for parents to support the educational process.
- 9 The school actively seeks the knowledge it needs to work effectively with a diverse parent body.