



PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

**WORKING TOGETHER TO
MAXIMISE STUDENT
LEARNING**

Purpose

Parents* and the broader community play a vital role in supporting successful learning outcomes for our children. This framework is about how Nanango State High School engages with parents and our surrounding communities to work together to maximise student learning outcomes.

The research tells us that the most meaningful partnerships are those where school, parents, students and the community work together to focus on student learning. Parent and community engagement that is effectively focused on student learning can deliver powerful outcomes.

Our Parent and Community Engagement Framework identifies what Nanango State High School does to strengthen learning outcomes for students - through effective partnerships between principals, teachers, students, parents and the community.

Introduction

The education of our students is a shared responsibility, benefiting all students, our community, our society and economy as a whole. Therefore, parents and the broader community have a reciprocal responsibility to engage with us.

Nanango State High School is better able to support student achievement by developing strong engagement with and between:

- students
- teachers
- parents and carers
- support staff
- community, industry and business groups.

The quality of relationships we develop will determine the quality of the learning. Our framework outlines five key elements of parent and community engagement to make a positive difference in our students' education.

Communication

Effective communication between schools, parents, the community and students forms the foundation in developing and maintaining partnerships. Nanango State High School also has the responsibility to help parents understand the language of learning.

Nanango State High School communicates with its stakeholders using the following:

- a range of communication tools and channels including newsletters, websites, emails, full school assemblies, year parades, year level evenings, parent/teacher interviews, P&C meetings, text messages and the school Facebook page
- communicates clearly and often at key times in the school year where engagement of parents and the community is vital e.g. parent/teacher evenings, subject selection evenings
- provides professional development for teachers to effectively communicate with parents
- share consistent and ongoing messages of high expectations for all students and their learning at school parades, year level parades and through school newsletters.

Learning Partnerships

Learning is not limited to the classroom. The beliefs, expectations and experience of parents is a powerful determination in student achievement. Understanding the school, home and community contribution to student learning helps cultivate a holistic learning environment.

At Nanango State High School we do this by:

- providing parent/teacher workshops targeting areas of need such as Boys education and Cyber safety
- include and involve parents in goal setting and career planning discussions with their children through the Senior Education Training Plan process
- include parents in decision making around child's participation in literacy and numeracy classes
- having a highly structured transition program with our feeder schools from Year 6 to 7 and from Year 9 to 10.

Community collaboration

Nanango State High School works together with other community members for the benefit of the entire school community.

At Nanango State High School we do this by:

- maintaining contact with relevant health professionals in the area to support referrals
- open school facilities for community use including the local Dance Academy, Little Athletics and Army Cadets Corp
- building networks to establish a student support services framework to support all students

Decision making

Providing opportunities for relevant consultation ensure decisions reflects local needs. Greater community ownership and trust of school directions and decisions can be developed through open and authentic consultation.

At Nanango State High School we do this by:

- ensuring information regarding consultation opportunities is widely circulated in a variety of forms
- developing strategies to help teachers balance any time and workload issues that may result from their involvement with consultative decision making
- consulting widely through cold calls and survey monkey to reach a cross section of students, parents and community members, not just the most confident
- encouraging active participation in the P&C and encourage student participation in the decision making process.
- encourage all stakeholders to complete the Client Opinion Survey through reminders in the newsletters and text messaging.

Participation

Parent and community participation in student learning and the school community acknowledged and valued. This involvement sends a clear sign to students about the value of education.

At Nanango State High School we do this by:

- loading events, meetings and assessment calendars on the school website at the start of each semester
- invite parents and community members to become involved in a variety of school programs
- encouraging parents to attend parent/teacher meetings at least twice a year

Markers of strong parent and community engagement

At Nanango State High School we value the following as ways of developing strong parent and community engagement.

- Parents are encouraged to take a genuine and close interest in the work of the school, are acknowledged as the first teachers of their children, and engage as partners in their children's learning
- Communication with parents provides information about where students are up to in their learning, what progress they have made over time and what they might do to support their children's further learning
- Respectful and caring relationships are reflected in the ways in which staff, students and parents interact and in the language they use in both formal and informal settings
- Schools have regular and ongoing ways of finding out what parents need to engage with their child's learning
- Parents can list the school's key expectations for behaviour, attendance and homework
- The principal and the teachers use many styles of communication appropriate for parents' cultural backgrounds, availability, working conditions etc.
- The principal and teachers regularly connect with the parent/s of every child in the school
- There are mechanisms to build relationships with relevant members of the community

Cultural improvement

The *Teaching and Learning Audit Dimension 3 - a culture that promotes learning* provides a mechanisms for schools to review their parent and community engagement.

The School Opinion Survey also provides schools with valuable data to reflect upon the effectiveness of their parent and community engagement.

School and community Partnerships is one of the central elements for inclusion in the Annual Implementation Plan and School Plan.

* Throughout the document, where the term 'parent' is used to refer to parents, carers and families.