

Parent & Community Engagement Framework



COMMUNICATION



Meridan State College is committed to upholding a high standard of communication. Effective communication is an exchange between students, parents, communities and schools that is inclusive and involves information sharing and opportunities to learn from each other. Meridan State College has a responsibility to help parents understand the language of learning.

Meridan State College communicates with its stakeholders using range of communication tools and channels including:

- newsletters
- website
- emails
- school assemblies
- year level or sector parades
- parent/teacher interviews
- P&C meetings
- text messages
- College Facebook page
- Seesaw
- Playgroup

At Meridan State College we do this by:

- Communicating at key times in the school year where engagement of parents and the community is vital including: parent/teacher evenings, subject selection evenings, parent workshops.
- Professional development for teachers to effectively communicate with parents.
- Sharing consistent and ongoing messages of high expectations for all students and their learning at school parades, year level parades and through school newsletters.

“Igniting Minds, Empowering Futures”

PARTNERSHIPS WITH PARENTS



Meridan State College values successful partnerships with parents, students and the school. Our College believes that reciprocal partnerships between parents, students and schools promote student learning, wellbeing and high expectations for student success.

We believe 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 Meridan State College we do this by:

- Providing parent/teacher workshops targeting areas of need such as literacy, numeracy, wellbeing and cyber safety.
- Including and involving parents in goal setting and career planning discussions with their children through the Senior Education Training (SET) Plan process.
- Including parents in decision making around their child’s participation in master classes and support and/or intervention programs for literacy and numeracy.
- Having a highly structured transition programs with our feeder ECECS from Kindergarten into Prep, feeder Primary Schools from Year 6 to 7, and into Senior Secondary.
- Actively encouraging parent engagement in our P&C and other College decision making opportunities.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION



Meridan State College values strong collaboration between the school and wider community. Relationships between the school and wider community strengthen the ability of schools and families to support student learning, wellbeing and developmental outcomes.

Meridan State College works together with other community members for the mutual benefit of the entire school community.

At Meridan State College we do this by:

- Maintaining contact with relevant health professionals in the local area to support referrals.
- Opening school facilities for community use including the local dance groups, church groups and sporting teams.
- Building networks to establish a student support services framework to support all students including: Family and Child Connect, Child Youth and Mental Health, Sunshine Coast Health Services, Kids Hope Mentors, Halcyon Helpers, Sunny Kids, Connect Kids.
- Providing a free community playgroup for pre-schoolers.
- Building reciprocal relationships to support successful transitions through ECECs, Coalition Schools, VET, Trade Training and work experience placements.
- Encouraging community engagement with our P&C events such as Mother’s Day and Father’s Day Stalls, School Discos, Festivals, Colour Runs, other.

DECISION MAKING



Meridan State College encourages meaningful decision-making between parents, student, community members and the school.

We believe in providing genuine opportunities for consultation, to ensure that decisions reflect local needs. Encouraging greater community ownership of school direction and decision making, allows open and authentic consultation with all members of our parent, student, staff and wider community.

At Meridan State College we do this by:

- Ensuring information regarding consultation opportunities is widely circulated using a variety of communication tools.
- Developing strategies to help teachers balance their teaching schedules so they may be positively involved in consultative decision making.
- Consulting widely through a range of communication strategies including phone calls and surveys 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.
- Encouraging stakeholders to complete the School Opinion Survey through reminders in the newsletters, emails and text messaging.
- Our College Director personally following up with all parents who indicate they would like to provide the College with their feedback or feedforward.

SCHOOL CULTURE



Meridan State College maintains high expectations for respectful relationships between students, parents, local community and the school. They are valued and enhance the promotion of student learning and wellbeing.

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

At Meridan State College we do this by:

- Promoting school and P&C events and meetings on our school website, Facebook and via the newsletters.
- Reminders via emails, Facebook and Seesaw.
- Inviting parents and community members to become involved in a broad range of school programs.
- Encouraging parents to attend parent/teacher interviews provided twice a year.
- Working together.



The Meridan Way

MERIDAN STATE COLLEGE

Parent & Community Engagement Framework



Introduction

The education of our students is a shared responsibility, benefiting all students, our community, our society and economy as a whole. Meridan State College is better able to support student achievement by developing strong reciprocal relationships using five key engagement elements: Communication, Partnerships with Parents, Community Collaboration, Decision Making and School Culture.



Markers of strong parent and community engagement:

At Meridan State College 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, and 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 learning.
- The principal and the teachers use many styles of communication appropriate for parents' cultural backgrounds, availability, working conditions etc., including the use of AUSLAN and other interpreters as required.
- 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.



Purpose

Our parents, carers and families and the broader community are crucial to supporting successful learning outcomes for our children.

Our Parent and Community Engagement Framework identifies how Meridan State College strengthens learning outcomes for students, through effective reciprocal partnerships between principals, teachers, students, parents and the community.

Parent and community engagement that is effectively focused on student learning can deliver powerful outcomes.

