

Family/Community Engagement Plan

Updated

2011-12

Family/community involvement is the participation of parents and stakeholders in every facet of the education and development of children from birth to adulthood, recognizing that families are the primary influence in children's lives. Family involvement takes many forms, including the family's shared responsibilities in decisions about children's education, health and well-being, as well as the family participation in organizations that reflect the community's collaborative aspirations for all children.

FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITY

The family, as a role model and initial teacher, has a responsibility to:

- Safeguard and nurture the physical, mental, social and spiritual education of the child;
- Provide opportunities for interaction with other children and adults;
- Lay the foundation for responsible citizenship, including instilling a knowledge of and respect for our nation's diverse cultural heritage;
- Provide a home environment that encourages and sets an example for the child's commitment to learning;
- Know, help and interact with the child's teachers and school administrators;
- Communicate with and participate in the selection/election of school officials (e.g. school board members); and
- Develop, through observation, knowledge of how the child functions in the school environment.

FAMILY RIGHTS

A family has a right to:

- Clear, correct and complete information about the school and the child's progress;
- Confidentiality of information about the child;
- Clear understanding of the processes to gain access to the appropriate school officials, to participate in decisions that are made, and to appeal matters pertaining to his or her child;

- Expect a sensitivity to ethnic, language and cultural differences; and
- Observe the child at school.

SCHOOL'S RESPONSIBILITY

Hickman County Schools will:

- Involve parents in jointly developing the Family/Community Involvement Plan, and in the process of individual school review and improvement;
- Provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance;
- Build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement;
- Provide assistance to parents in understanding topics such as the State's academic content standards, State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, requirements of NCLB and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve student achievement;
- Provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their achievement, such as literacy training and using technology to foster parental involvement;
- Educate staff with the assistance of parents in the value and contributions of parents, and in working with parents-how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, build ties between parents and the school;
- Ensure school related information on programs meetings, and other activities is sent to parents in a format and extent practicable, in a language the parents understand;
- Provide other reasonable support for parent involvement activities per parent request;
- Coordinate and integrate Title I-A parent involvement strategies with parent involvement strategies under other programs, such as Head Start, Parents as Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, State-run Preschool programs and Title III language instructional programs;

- Conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served by Title I-A:
 - Identify barriers to greater parental participation in parent involvement activities;
 - Use the findings of the evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement;
 - Revise, if necessary, the LEA's parental involvement policies.

- Involve parents in the activities of schools served under Title I, Part A, including but not limited to the design, implementation, and evaluation of the Title I Part A program;
- The LEA and schools, to the extent practicable, provide full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a format, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.