

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

PARENT/FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

4.207

The Tennessee State Board of Education recognizes that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and family during the entire period the child spends in school. To support the state board goal to educate all students to achieve world-class standards and leave school prepared for postsecondary education, work, and citizenship schools and parents must work as knowledgeable partners.

Although parents are diverse in culture, language, and needs, they share the school's commitment to the educational success of their children. Collaboration between schools and parents is essential to support student learning. Programs must reflect the specific needs of the students and the families in the community they serve. To this end, this policy supports the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of a parent involvement program in each school. It obligates the involvement of parents at all grade levels in a variety of roles. Parent involvement programs should be comprehensive and coordinated in nature.

Consistent with the standards set forth in the No Child Left Behind Act and the National PTA Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs, a successful parent involvement program will include, but not be limited to, the following components:

- Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful;
- Responsible parenting is promoted and supported;
- Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning;
- Parents are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance are sought;
- Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families; and
- Community resources are made available to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning.

The Board supports professional development opportunities, consistent with the Board's *Professional Development Policy*, for educators and parents to better understand, develop and implement practices that involve parent/families in a meaningful way in the education of their children. The Board also recognizes the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation. In addition to programs at the school level, the State Board of Education supports the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of a program to involve parents in the decisions and practices of each school district, using to the degree possible, the components listed above.

Engaging parents is essential to improved student achievement. This board shall foster and support active parent involvement.

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Resources

For more information about the national standards and parent involvement program resources from the National PTA see:

<http://www.pta.org/parentinvolvement/index.asp>

For more information about the Tennessee PTA see: <http://www.tnpta.org>

For more information about the federal *No Child Left Behind* Act see:

<http://www.nclb.gov>

For a copy of the State Board Professional Development Policy see:

<http://www.state.tn.us/sbe/policies.html>

For school information that empowers parents to become informed and involved partners in their child's education see:

http://www.just4kids.org/US/US_parents.asp

For school state test results see:

<http://www.state.tn.us/education/tsresults.htm>