

WAYNE COUNTY FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

The Wayne County School District ensures that all representatives of constituent families have meaningful involvement in the design and implementation of a Family Engagement policy.

The policy has been developed by using the guidance from the Federal Parental Involvement: Title 1, Part A guidance of April 23, 2004, the State of Tennessee Public Acts, Section 1 of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 2, Part 3, amended by Section 49-2-305, and Section 1118(a) (2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). This policy will meet all of the No Child Left Behind requirements.

DESIGN DESCRIPTION:

The Wayne County School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools as consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118 (b) of the ESEA, and each section 1118 (d) of the ESEA.
- The school district will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

- If the LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title 1, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title 1, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring –

- (A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
- (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- (C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;*
- (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA;*
- (E) the school district will inform parent and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Resource Center.*

IMPLEMENTATION DESCRIPTION:

The Wayne County School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The Wayne County School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA, and in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

(A) Advisory Committee Meetings

(B) Parent Surveys

(C) Newsletters

(D) Home Visits

(E) Annual School Meetings

- The Wayne County School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve students academic achievement and school performance:

(A) Regional Office Consultants

(B) Advisory Committee

(C) Central Office Staff

(D) Outside Resource Personnel as needed

- The Wayne County School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with parental involvement strategies under the following programs: [Head Start, Even Start, Early Reading First, Reading First, State-operated preschool programs] by:

(A) Home Visits

(B) Training on parenting techniques with Scientific-Researched Based programs

(C) Parent and Child Learning Activities (PACLA)

(D) Advisory Council Meetings

(E) School Visits

(F) Surveys

(G) Newsletters

(H) Training of Scientific-Researched Based programs to all of the above mentioned programs

- The Wayne County School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary with the involvement of parents.

Evaluation Results:

Annual Surveys

Annual Meetings

Newsletters

Advisory Council

Those Responsible:

Federal Program Director

Federal Program Facilitator

School Principals

Early Reading Director/Facilitators

Reading First Facilitator

Even Start Director

Home-School Liaison

Advisory Council

Parent Roles:

Attendance at Annual Meetings

Completing Surveys

Advisory Council Participation

Complete Parent-school Compacts

Key participants in designing, implementing, and revising parent policies

- The Wayne County School District will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the schools involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:
 - A. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph –
 - the State's academic content standards,
 - the State's student academic achievement standards,
 - the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
 - the requirements of Part A,
 - how to monitor their child's progress, and
 - how to work with educators:

Local Workshops

Annual Meetings

Newsletters

Local Newspaper

District Core Team training in Family Friendly Schools

Institute (5 days)

School Core Team training in Family Friendly Schools

Institute (1 day)

- B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:

Weekly Newsletters

Annual Meetings

Monthly Meetings

Weekly Parent and Child Learning Activities Meetings

Specific training by individual schools

Technology training for instruction, assessment and information

- C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

Local Training

Newsletters

Family Friendly Schools Institute training (State and Local)

- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, and coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Early Reading First, Reading First, Even Start, and public preschools and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

Advisory Meetings

Newsletters

Local and State training

Program Visits

Continuous and sustained communication

- E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that Information related to the school and parent-programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

Newsletters

Newspaper

District Web Page

ADOPTION:

The Wayne County School District Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title 1, Part A programs, as evidenced by minutes from the Advisory Council Meetings and Family Friendly Schools Surveys.

This policy was adopted by the Wayne County School District on Tuesday, May 24, 2005 and will be in effect for the period of the No Child Left Behind Act or if the district needs to revise to better meet family needs. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating schools on or before school year 2005-2006.

Submitted by: _____

Director of Schools: _____

Chairman of Board: _____

Date: _____

