

## **Sequatchie County District Family Involvement Plan School Year 2011-2012**

1. The Sequatchie County Board of Education will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of ESEA:
  - A. Parents will be included on District committee as well as school committees.
  - B. Each School will be required to have a school-level parent involvement plan.
  - C. Title I schools will participate in School/Parent Compacts.
  
2. The Sequatchie County Board of Education will provide the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1116 of the ESEA:
  - A. All schools will have parents on the family engagement committee.
  - B. District will solicit parent input, support, and involvement through surveys, parent conferences and parent communications.
  - C. Parents will be invited to informational meetings and trainings.
  
3. The Sequatchie County Board of Education will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
  - A. Federal Programs Director will be on school-level committees.
  - B. Funding for parental activities will be provided.
  - C. Principal will participate in meetings and trainings.
  - D. Teachers and Staff will participate in meeting and trainings.
  - E. Yearly Calendar of School Activities is published in the Dunlap Tribune, sent home at the beginning of the year with each student, and published on district's website.
  
4. The Sequatchie County Board of Education will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs; (such as: 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC, SPED Preschool, HeadStart, ESL and Extended Contract), by:
  - A. Parents participate in after school and summer programs in Title I Schools. Parents are invited to do demonstrations and presentations about careers/hobbies. Also, parents and community are invited guests for performances.
  - B. Extended Contract Teachers encourage parent participation in their programs.
  - C. Parents and Civic Groups are welcome to utilize the school and Board of Education buildings for meetings such as TN Tech Master's classes, ABWA, Southeastern SPED supervisor meetings, and Chamber meetings, etc.
  
5. The Sequatchie County Board of Education will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A 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 disable, 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 (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.
  - A. The Board of Education will inform parents in their native language of their rights to consult and participate in the design and implementation of the program.
    1. Through parent surveys
    2. By allowing parents to give their opinions.

3. By discussing the program activities at Open House.
  - B. The Board of Education will solicit parent input, support, and involvement in all aspects of the program.
    1. Through surveys.
    2. Through parent conferences.
    3. By providing regular parent communications.
  - C. The Board of Education will give parents an opportunity to discuss and have input in assessments of the parent involvement program and needed changes, through meetings, open house, PTO, surveys, e-mail, and telephone opportunity.
    1. The effectiveness of the policy in increasing parent participation will be through the end of the year survey to determine what changes are needed to allow more parent input and participation.
    2. The Board of Education will also identify barriers to participation of parents, such as time of meetings, need of transportation, child care, and language differences; and discuss ways to try to improve these problems.
6. The Sequatchie County Board of Education 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 school 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 Title I, part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district, or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph.
    1. Each Title I school will explain test results at the annual Open House.
    2. Progress reports will be sent to parents at the end of each six (or nine) weeks grading period.
    3. Parent Teacher conferences may be scheduled at the request of the teacher or parent.
    4. Teachers attending workshops/conferences paid for by federal funds will offer parent and /or teacher training sessions after they return. This way information obtained at the workshop/conferences will be shared with faculty and parents
  - 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:
    1. Providing links on the district web page on additional resources to help students succeed.
    2. Provide parents the e-mail addresses of teachers in the school their child attends at the beginning of each year.
  - 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:
    1. Providing the principals and/or assistant principals the opportunity to attend conferences that promote family engagement topics. These conferences could include the LEAD conference, Principal Conferences, Title I Conferences.
    2. Faculty meeting and/or Grade (Subject) Level Meetings discussions occasionally focus on parental/family engagement.
  - D. 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:
    1. Information sent home will be sent in the child's native language in accordance of the Home Language Survey. English Language Learner students will receive letters in both English and the language spoken at home.
    2. Information sent home will be written in a format parents will understand. A telephone number will be included in case a parent has questions.

## Tennessee Parent Involvement Standards

The Sequatchie County School System agrees to implement the Tennessee Standards listed below are based on the PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships. These standards were adopted by the State Board of Education on July 30, 2010.

1. Standard 1: **Welcoming all families into the school community**—Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class and school.
2. Standard 2: **Communicating effectively**—Families and school staff engage in regular, meaningful communication about student learning.
3. Standard 3: **Supporting student success**—Families and school staff continuously work together to support students' learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.
4. Standard 4: **Speaking up for every child**—Families are informed and enabled to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.
5. Standard 5: **Sharing power**—Families and school staff are equal partners with equal representation in decisions that affect students and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.
6. Standard 6: **Collaborating with community**—Families and school staff work together with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.