

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

PARENT/FAMILY INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY

4.207

Policy Sections

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I. Purpose.

- (1) Parents and families are children's first and most important teachers. This policy further defines statutory responsibilities of the Department of Education (the Department) and local education agencies (LEAs) and public charter schools to support parent and family involvement and engagement in students' educational careers.

II. Definitions.

- (1) **Parent/Family Engagement:** Parent/family engagement refers to actions or activities that promote proactive and collaborative partnerships. The LEA or public charter school actively and consistently engages families through meaningful two-way communication, solicits feedback and input, and encourages leadership and decision-making opportunities.
- (2) **Parent/Family Involvement:** Parent/family involvement refers to actions or activities that parents/family members do to support their child's learning.

III. LEA and Public Charter School Responsibilities.

- (1) Each LEA and public charter school shall be responsible for developing and implementing a parental/family involvement and engagement program(s) and practices that ensure compliance with:
 - (a) T.C.A § 49-2-305 regarding the development of a policy to promote parent/family involvement and a family engagement plan submitted for approval by the Commissioner of Education;
 - (b) T.C.A § 49-6-7001 regarding voluntary participation by parents, if the LEA has opted to develop such a program;
 - (c) T.C.A. § 49-6-7002 regarding requirements of parent-teacher meetings;
 - (d) T.C.A. § 49-6-7003 regarding requirements of parental inspection of school instructional materials;

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- (e) T.C.A. § 49-6-7004 regarding requirements of voluntary parental involvement contracts; and
 - (f) T.C.A. § 49-6-7005 regarding optional techniques of improving parental involvement in children's education.
- (2) The Department shall support and encourage high-quality parent/family involvement and engagement through the development of a state parent/family involvement framework, professional development, communications, and program evaluation.
- (3) The Department shall include the parent/family involvement framework and professional development supports on its website for LEAs and public charter schools to access.