

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

PARENT/FAMILY INVOLVEMENT <u>AND</u> ENGAGEMENT <u>POLICY</u> <u>and</u> <u>COMMUNITY SCHOOLS</u>	4.207
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~~Senate Bill No. 293, of the 106th General Assembly was enacted to require the Tennessee Department of Education to develop parental involvement standards. In addition, this legislation requires the State to report schools' and districts' compliance with the standards on the Tennessee report card starting with school year 2010-2011.~~

~~In 2003, the Tennessee State Board of Education adopted parental involvement standards (Policy 4.207 Parent Family Involvement). As a result of Senate Bill No. 293, the Department convened a task force to review the current parental involvement standards and the current National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) standards. The task force recommends that Policy 4.207 Parent Family Involvement be replaced with the Tennessee Standards for Family-School Partnerships, which are based on the current National PTA standards available at <http://www.pta.org/nationalstandards>.~~

~~Tennessee Family-School Partnership Framework Based on the PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships~~

~~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*.~~

~~Standard 2 Communicating effectively.~~

~~Families and school staff engage in regular, two-way, meaningful communication about student learning.~~

~~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.~~

~~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.~~

~~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.~~

~~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.~~

~~The italicized words reflect the task force's modifications to the national PTA standards.~~

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4.207

Community Schools

Public Chapter 968 of the 108th General Assembly created the Tennessee Community Schools Act (codified at T.C.A. §§ 49-6-2401 through 49-6-2406). The Community Schools Act encourages LEAs to establish and seek funding for community schools that provide a range of community services to students and community residents.

The State Board of Education encourages LEAs to form community schools. If an LEA chooses to establish a community school or schools, the LEA shall permit teachers to receive in-service credit for teaching classes for parents, such as parenting classes, at the community school if such classes are taught outside of regular school hours.

Policy Sections

I. Purpose

II. Definitions

III. LEA and Public Charter School Responsibilities

Section I. Purpose.

- a) 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.

Section II. Definitions.

- a) 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.
- b) Parent/Family Involvement: Parent/family involvement refers to actions or activities that parents/family members do to support their child's learning.

Section III. LEA and Public Charter School Responsibilities.

- a) 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:
- 1) 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;
 - 2) T.C.A § 49-6-7001 regarding voluntary participation by parents, if the LEA has opted to develop such a program;
 - 3) T.C.A. § 49-6-7002 regarding requirements of parent-teacher meetings;
 - 4) T.C.A. § 49-6-7003 regarding requirements of parental inspection of school instructional materials;
 - 1)5) T.C.A. § 49-6-7004 regarding requirements of voluntary parental involvement contracts; and

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6) T.C.A. § 49-6-7005 regarding optional techniques of improving parental involvement in children's education.

b) 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.

c) The Department shall include the parent/family involvement framework and professional development supports on its website for LEAs and public charter schools to access.