

#### 4.5021

## Humphreys County's Family Engagement Policy

Families and community members should be engaged in the education of students based on the following standards:

- Families are welcomed into the school community;
- Families and school staff should engage in regular and meaningful communication about student learning;
- Families and school staff work together to support student learning and development;
- Families are informed and encouraged to be advocates for students;
- Families are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families; and
- Community, civic, and business resources are made available to strengthen school programs, family practices and student learning.

Schools shall establish and develop programs and practices that enhance family engagement and address the specific needs of students and families. Decisions affecting students, schools, and established school procedures shall always be made within the parameters of legal and Board of Education policies. The programs and practices will be comprehensive and coordinated and will include the following goals:

- I. Assist families in developing skills and techniques to support their children's learning.
- II. Promote clear, two-way communication between school and family about school issues, instructional programs, and children's progress.
- III. Identify and reduce barriers to family engagement, including such barriers as those of economic concerns, disabilities, limited English proficiency, limited literacy, or issues related to cultural diversity.
- IV. Inform, involve, and train family members, where appropriate, in voluntary instructional and support roles at school.
- V. Provide information about community and support services for children and families.
- VI. Include families in decision-making affecting schools and programs when consistent with law and board policy.
- VII. Provide professional development for teachers and staff on ways to work effectively with parents, families, and volunteers.
- VIII. Provide access to the family engagement policy for each family and post the policy in each school.

## **Humphreys County's Parent/Family Involvement**

### **GENERAL EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL SCHOOLS**

The school district shall be governed by the statutory definition of parent involvement as sited in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), and shall carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition.1

The Board shall implement the following as required by federal and state legislation:

- The school district will put into operation activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools. Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents.
- The school district shall incorporate activities and strategies that support this district-wide family and community engagement policy into its Tennessee Comprehensive System-wide Planning Process (TCSPP).
- The TCSPP shall include procedures by which parents may learn about the course of study for their children and have access to all learning materials.
- The TCSPP shall include strategies for parent participation in the district's schools which are designed to improve parent and teacher cooperation in such areas as homework, attendance and discipline.
- If the school district's TCSPP is not satisfactory to the parents, the school district shall submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- To the extent practicable, the school district and its schools shall 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 in an understandable and uniform format and including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- The school district shall appoint a Family and Community Advisory Council that will annually assess, through consultation with parents, the effectiveness of the Family and Community Engagement Program and determine what action needs to be taken, if any, to increase parental and community participation. In order to accomplish this, each advisory council shall be composed of representatives from parents of students in elementary, middle and high schools, community business leaders, a member of the school board, and representatives from the school district.