

Family Engagement Plan

Stewart County Schools

Purpose

The Family Engagement Plan for Stewart County Schools was developed to:

- Support the Board of Education's Five Year Strategic Plan as well as the system's District Level Plan (InformTN /eplan)
- Support the initiatives found in the Consolidated Federal Projects Application
- Create a common vision of family engagement and resources needed to sustain that vision
- Increase and improve the level of family involvement in our students' education

Plan

Component 1: Stewart County Schools is committed to involving families in policy development.

Indicators:

1. Parents will have an opportunity to discuss and provide input through PTO Council and the monthly PTO meetings
2. Parents will be represented on each school's site-based council (including all Title I Schools)

3. Parents will be represented on the system's committee for District Level Planning (InformTN/ePlan)
4. Parents and educators will have the opportunity to provide input through surveys and through postings on the system's web page
5. Cultural, economic, language, and demographic issues will be given attention through the selection of focus groups and advisory councils and committees
6. The system will provide parents of English Language Learners the opportunity to provide input at an annual community meeting.

Component 2: The Family Engagement Plan includes technical assistance and planning support for effective family engagement.

Indicators:

1. Workshops for parents are scheduled through The Center for Teaching and Learning.
2. The Federal Programs Supervisor and Building Administrators host an annual program to provide information regarding federal programs and expenditures and to collect feedback from parents.
3. School newsletters are sent home on a regular basis and contain information regarding school report cards, test results, new programming options, and suggestions for parents to become involved in their child's education
4. The district report card and other key sources of information are linked to the district web site

5. Courses of study may be accessed by a link from the district web site to the state department web site
6. A computer with access to the internet and email will be made available to parents at The Center for Teaching and Learning and the public library
7. Title I parent involvement activities will be coordinated with parent involvement activities of other programs such as: preschool and ESL programs

Component 3: The Family Engagement Plan supports clearly articulated goals for extent and type of family engagement.

Indicators:

1. A variety of planned, goal-oriented programs will be created and implemented to engage all parents in their children's education in one or more of the following categories:
 1. *parenting* (strategies to promote effective parenting practices at home)
 2. *communicating* (strategies to promote positive school-home communication)
 3. *learning at home* (learning activities to involve parents with students at home)
 4. *decision making* (opportunities to engage in decision making, governance, and advocacy roles at both the school and system level)

5. *collaborating with the community* (activities/events that foster school-community partnerships)

Sign-in sheets and other forms of documentation will be kept on file and reviewed annually to assess parent participation in system and school activities in each of the five areas

Component 4: The Family Engagement Plan provides for an evaluation process to promote continuous improvement of the engagement of all families.

Indicators:

1. Annual surveys will be conducted at the system level as well as at each of the school sites to identify barriers to greater participation; to design more effective strategies; and to revise, if necessary, the parent involvement plan
2. Survey results will be analyzed to measure the effectiveness of the plan and to secure input regarding modifications in future practices
3. Measurable goals for increasing the level and quality of family involvement are required as part of every school improvement plan

Component 5: The Family Engagement Plan requires family engagement at all school sites.

Indicators:

1. All schools (including schools served under Title I-A) will develop a Family Engagement Plan that provides opportunities for family engagement

2. All schools will conduct an annual parent survey regarding the family practices provided at each school site
3. Each school will set a goal for family engagement for each major strategy

Component 6: The Family Engagement Plan includes procedures for parents to access and understand course of study or curricular materials as well as Federal, State, and local standards.

Indicators:

1. The district web site will contain a link to the Tennessee State Department of Education where the state curriculum for each grade level and subject area can be accessed
2. Progress indicators on elementary report cards will be aligned with state standards
3. The Center for Teaching and Learning will have specific activities and materials available for the involvement of families
4. The system uses a variety of communication tools to support conversations between teachers and families such as Remind, email, social media and the School Messenger system

Component 7: The Family Engagement Plan encourages the support of district involvement in positive parenting skills.

Indicators:

1. Parenting workshops will be offered through The Center for Teaching and Learning

2. After school tutoring and homework programs will be provided to improve student homework and achievement
3. Parents will receive phone calls once a student has accrued five absences; each school will receive money to develop attendance incentives
4. Schools will develop reward programs to acknowledge good character and good student behavior (i.e. the Character Counts Program)
5. Parents and students will receive information about bullying awareness

Component 8: The Family Engagement Plan incorporates family involvement in decision making and governance.

Indicators:

1. School district staff members are friendly towards, respectful of, and helpful to all families
2. All schools are required to have family representation on the site-based team
3. The district has several ways of listening to parents and engaging them in two-way communication (for example, giving time at Board meetings and providing ways to give input on the district website)
4. Parent representatives will serve on the Voluntary PreK advisory council
5. Parent representatives will serve on each school's School Improvement Planning Process team as well as on the system's district Level Planning Committee (ePlan) core team.

Component 9: The Family Engagement Plan supports professional development to build the capacity for family engagement.

Indicators:

1. Professional development in the area of family engagement will be provided to all staff members
2. Families will have opportunities to be included in family engagement training
3. Schools will be supported by the district office in planning/implementing family engagement activities for the purpose of improving student achievement

Component 10: The Family Engagement Plan specifies budget and funding for family engagement.

Indicators:

1. The district has adequate staff and resources to implement the family involvement standards
2. District and site-based budgets will reflect a commitment to the effective development, implementation, and evaluation of family engagement programs
3. All Title I schools will designate a percentage of the Title I A budget for parent involvement activities