



# Tennessee's Parental Involvement Standards

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- Senate Bill No. 293  
<http://tennessee.gov/education/fedprog/fpinvolveeducators.shtml>
- Tennessee Standards on parental involvement were adopted by the State Board of Education on July 30, 2010  
<http://tennessee.gov/education/fedprog/fpinvolveall.shtml>
- These standards begin with the 2010-2011 school year and are based on the PTA's National Standards for Family- School Partnerships

***So What Will This Mean  
for Your School and Your Staff?***

# What are the Standards?



# How Are They Measured?

- **Standard 1: Welcoming All Families:**

*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:**

*Families and school staff engage in regular, 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.*

# How Are They Measured?

- **Standard 4: Speaking Up for Every Child:**

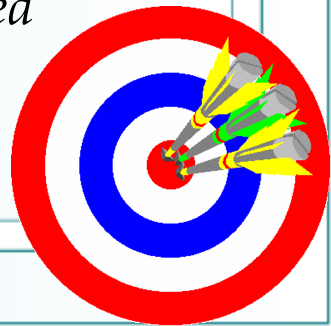
*Families are informed and enabled to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.*

- **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.*



# On Top of Everything Else!!

- New academic standards
- New requirements, accountability for First to the Top funds
- Professional development (ensuring teachers, aides are certified, time for on-going professional development)
- Staffing issues (finding & retaining qualified staff, substitutes)
- Maintaining school building (safe, healthy learning environment)
- Transportation
- Budgets
- Testing
- State and federal requirements
- Monitoring



# Why the Emphasis on Parental Involvement Standards?

- The children in our schools come from complex communities, family situations
- It is unrealistic to expect schools to effectively teach children, when children spend approx. 70% of their time away from school (*200 days in the school yr., 7 hr. / day, for 13 yrs. vs. 365 days / yr., 17 hrs./ day, for 13 yrs.*) **Clark, R.M. (1990), Why Disadvantaged Children Succeed**



# Tennessee Diploma Project

- **The American and TN Diploma Project has four specific actions:**
- 1. Align standards and assessments with the knowledge and skills required beyond high school.
- 2. Require all high school students to take challenging courses that actually prepare them for life after high school.
- 3. Build college and work-ready measures into statewide accountability systems
- 4. Hold schools accountable for graduating students who are college and/or workforce ready, and hold postsecondary accountable for students' success once enrolled.
- **What Parents Can Do**
- Reinforce the importance of getting to school on time and not cutting class.
- Talk with your child's teachers about how you can help your child succeed.
- Make academics the top priority for your child.
- Expect the best from your child and seek help if your child is struggling in a class.

# Why the Emphasis on Parental Involvement Standards?



- Research consistently shows better outcomes for children (no matter the age) when there is parental involvement

Institute for Responsive Education, Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, Journal of Educational Research, Bureau of Educational Personnel Development, Appalachia Educational Laboratory, Child Welfare (Journal)

# Measuring Compliance

- Compliance for the standards will be on the Tennessee State Report Card starting with the 2011-2012 school year
- Suggested tools that can be used to show compliance for the standards:

**TCSPP-district level goals**

**TSIPP-school level goals**

**Parental Involvement Plan at district and/or school level**

**Comprehensive Monitoring Instrument at:**

**<http://tennessee.gov/education/fedprog/fpmonitoring.shtml>**

**PTA National Standards for Family-School**

**Partnerships Assessment Guide:**

**[http://www.pta.org/National\\_Standards\\_Assessment\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.pta.org/National_Standards_Assessment_Guide.pdf)**

# Examples

Below are current examples of suggested tools:

- **Jefferson County Schools Family & Community Engagement Plan:** <http://jc-schools.net/parent/JCSplan.htm>
- **Jefferson County School website (individual SIP):** <http://jc-schools.net/plans.htm>
- **Bethpage Elementary School, Sumner Co., 2010 Blue Ribbon School, School Parent Involvement Plan:** [http://bpe.sumnerschools.org/images/stories/swaap\\_parent\\_involvement\\_09-10.pdf](http://bpe.sumnerschools.org/images/stories/swaap_parent_involvement_09-10.pdf)
- **Grundy County High School, 2010 Blue Ribbon School, Parental Involvement Plan:** [http://www.grundyschoolsystem.com/Federal\\_Programs/Parent\\_Involvement.pdf](http://www.grundyschoolsystem.com/Federal_Programs/Parent_Involvement.pdf)

# Building a Successful Parental Involvement Program

- Successful planning
- Information
- Relationship building
- Training and skill building (parents and staff)



# School Improvement Plan

- Do your Parental Involvement activities link to the areas of strength and need around your AYP benchmarks in reading, math, science, attendance, or graduation?
- Who is involved in developing this piece of your school improvement plan?





- Actively recruit parents that reflect the diversity of your student body
- Provide training on the role, expectations for your Parent Advisory Committee, School Improvement Plan Parental Involvement Subcommittee
- Actively recruit community resources, agencies that can help with training, model collaboration

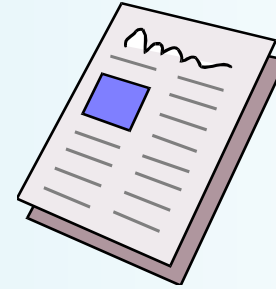
- Facilitate teacher and parent interactions through PTA, committees
- Use Title 1 Parental Involvement funds to send parents to conferences (with understanding they come back to train other parents, staff)
- Ask staff, community members to help identify parent leaders in your school



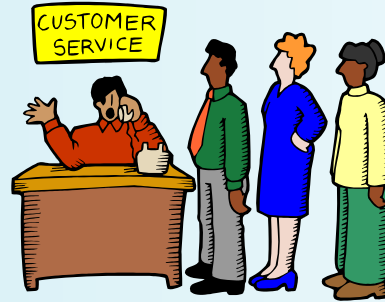
- Not providing guidance, training to your Parent Advisory Committees, School Improvement Plan Parental Involvement Committees
- Including the same “faces” on each of your committees
- Providing no incentives to parents (a title, showcasing their efforts at local and district level)
- Only staying inside the school building (in recruiting, engaging, and working with parents)
- Having no plan or supports for recruiting parents
- Only looking to school staff to provide the needed training and support



# Information



School/Class Newsletters



**Office staff**

- ✓ Friendly
- ✓ Knowledgeable
- ✓ Maintain confidentiality

## School Website

- ✓ Parent friendly
- ✓ Easy to Navigate
- ✓ Information on schools
- ✓ Computers available to all families



# Translators



- Conduct needs assessment of training needs for parents/staff
- Collaborate with agencies, resources currently serving your population for trainings
- Encourage identification of parents leaders to provide training (sponsoring them for conferences, work with TPIRC, Tennessee PTA, and other resources to train and support your parent leaders)

- Provide transportation, child care and food when possible
- Do not overlook staff development around working with the population you serve
- Providing trainings for adult learners



- Overlooking staff training (teachers and office staff) places a great deal of stress on the most valuable school resource in establishing positive relationships with parents
- Not setting clear priorities for training for parents and staff around parental involvement
- Not providing training that enables parents to be part of their child's academic and social development

- Waiting to the last minute to schedule/provide trainings
- Offering trainings one time only
- Not providing translation for families when English is not their primary language
- Not pooling training resources with other schools for transition training, academics, leadership

# Resources for Your Parental Involvement Activities

- The Tennessee Parent Information and Resource Center (TPIRC) – a U.S. Dept. of Education grant whose mission is to work with parents, schools, and community members to increase parental involvement around academic achievement (funded through ESEA):  
<http://www.tnvoices.org/index.php?q=en/TPIRC>
- Tennessee PTA - Promoting and supporting parent involvement in the education of all children has been a priority of PTA at the local, state, national, and international level for its more than 100 years:  
<http://www.tnpta.org/>

# Title I Resources For Parental Involvement

1. TN State Department, Family and Community Engagement

<http://tennessee.gov/education/fedprog/fpparentinvolve.shtml>

2. U.S. Dept. of Education, Section 1118 Parental Involvement

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg2.html#sec1118>

3. Parental Involvement: Title I, Part A Non-Regulatory Guidance

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/parentinvguid.pdf>

4. A Toolkit for Title I Parental Involvement-SEDL

<http://www.sedl.org/connections/toolkit/>

# So now what?

- Conduct presentations on the Standards for your school community
- Create learning opportunities for parents, school staff, and community members to understand how the Standards can be implemented
- Solicit feedback from your school community to evaluate your progress toward achieving the Standards
- Identify training needs for improving your planning and implementation process

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