

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION	
PARENT/FAMILY INVOLVEMENT AND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	4.207

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 Standards for Family-School Partnerships

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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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.