

**East Side Elementary School
Family Engagement Plan/P.T.A. Officers/ Parent
Advisory Committee
2007 – 2008**

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Our Mission:

Our primary mission for East Side Elementary School is to provide a safe environment where our students are academically challenged and learn to work cooperatively in a school setting. Our focus is to meet the intellectual, emotional, physical, and social needs of all East Side students.

Our Vision:

We will strive to enable all children to develop according to their greatest potential and to acquire the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed for a successful life.

OUR STAFF BELIEVES:

- ? Students should be provided an environment conducive to the development of intellectual, social and physical skills.
- ? Students should be provided a balanced curriculum of language arts, science, mathematics, social studies, physical education and classroom guidance designed to develop fundamental skills and to meet individual needs.
- ? Students should be provided a variety of materials, methods, groupings and teaching techniques.
- ? Students should be provided an opportunity to develop positive self-image, an inquiring mind, an appreciation of others, high moral standards and good character.
- ? Students should be given many opportunities to develop computer technology skills.
- ? Students should be provided the skills necessary to effectively communicate both orally and in writing.
- ? Students should be given opportunities to cultivate an awareness and appreciation of the arts.
- ? The faculty promotes good school-community relationships through parent-teacher cooperation and participation and desirable social relationships through better understanding of cultural, ethnic, and social differences.

East Side Elementary School Family Engagement Plan

East Side Elementary School recognizes that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and family during the entire time the child spends in school. To support the goal of the schools to educate all students effectively, the schools and parents must work as knowledgeable partners. Parents are an integral component of a school's ability for the educational success of their children. East Side Elementary School acknowledges that engaging parents is essential to improve student achievement and that schools should foster and support active parental involvement.

In response to this commitment to active parental involvement and in compliance with the legal requirements of Act 603 of 2003 and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, East Side Elementary School establishes the following family engagement plan.

The East Side Elementary School Family Engagement Plan, established in collaboration with parents, includes programs and practices that enhance parental involvement and reflects the specific needs of students of all grade levels and their families. The parental Involvement Plan involves parents of students of all grade levels in a variety of roles. The plan recognizes that communication between home and school should be regular, two-way, and meaningful. To encourage this communication, East Side Elementary School has made available a student planner that is appropriate for the age and grade level of each student in grades one through five.

The 2007 – 2008 student planners will describe the parental involvement program. It will explain the role of the parent, student, teacher, and school and ways for the parents to become involved in the school and their child's education. The student planners will describe the activities planned throughout the school year to encourage parent involvement and a system to allow parents to communicate with teachers and principals in a regular, two-way, and meaningful manner.

To promote and support responsible parenting, East Side Elementary School will purchase books, magazines, and other informative material regarding responsible parenting through the school library. These materials will be advertised and parents will have an opportunity to borrow the materials for review.

During the first P.T.A. meeting a “Parents Make the Difference” evening will be scheduled on the East Side Elementary School campus. Topics that will be covered are:

1. State of the School.
2. What students will be learning.
3. How students will be assessed.
4. What parents should expect for their child’s education.
5. How parents can assist and make a difference in their child’s education.

To welcome parents to East Side Elementary School, there is no policy or procedure that would discourage a parent from visiting the school, specifically including:

1. Policies prohibiting the parents from visiting a child’s classroom during school events.

East Side Elementary School will publish a volunteer resource book, listing the interests and availability of volunteers for school staff members’ use. The resource book will help match school needs with volunteer interests. To develop the volunteer resource book, the school will:

1. Survey parents regarding their interests, so volunteer work will be meaningful.
2. Determine how frequently a volunteer would like to participate, including just one time a year.
3. Include options for those who are available to help at home.

As part of the East Side Elementary School Parent Involvement Plan, statements will be printed attesting to the school district’s commitment to parental involvement and distribute the statements to parents of students.

To encourage parents to participate as full partners in the decisions that affect their child and family, East Side Elementary School will frequently publish the school’s process for resolving parental concerns, including how to define the problem, whom to approach first, and how to develop solutions.

East Side Elementary School will support the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of the program to involve parents in the decisions and practices of the school district, using to the degree possible, and the following components:

1. The principal will designate one certified staff member that is willing to serve as a parent facilitator to organize meaningful training for staff and parents, promoting and encouraging a welcoming atmosphere to parental involvement in the school. The parent facilitator will also undertake efforts to ensure that parental participation is recognized as an asset to the school.
2. The certified staff serving as a parental facilitator will receive extended contract pay for the assigned duties.

Staff development opportunities as required by the State Board of Education's Standards of Accreditation of Tennessee Public Schools will be offered each year. Eighteen (18) hours of professional development opportunities for teachers will be offered each year. The professional development will be designed to enhance understanding of effective parental involvement strategies. Parents will be invited to these professional development activities when appropriate.

At the end of the each school year, parents who attend all parent-teacher conferences will be acknowledged in the local newspaper.

It is the goal of East Side Elementary School to assure an ongoing partnership between families, communities, and school. We believe such a partnership is fundamental to the academic and social success of students. From this partnership a support will evolve that will have a positive effect on student achievement and will produce a sense of cooperative responsibility in ensuring excellence in the educational process. In accordance to the District plan, East Side Elementary School has developed the following list of activities in which parents and or volunteers can be involved in the educational process of out students.

- ? Academic Conferences
- ? Accelerated Reader Parent Information Session
- ? Book Fair
- ? Calendars (Yearly with main events, holidays...)
- ? Classroom Volunteers – Parents, College Students, Community Members
- ? Character Education (Assembly)
- ? Character Education Visitors
- ? Clothes Donations – Parents, Community
- ? Discipline Committee (parents)
- ? Fire safety Week Visits – school trips
- ? Food Drive
- ? Guest Speakers/Visitors
- ? Handbooks
- ? Holiday and Special Occasion Parties
- ? Homeroom Mom/Dad
- ? Library Volunteers
- ? Lunch/Breakfast with Child – Daily
- ? News releases (newspaper, radio, TV)
- ? Nurses – Hearing, Vision and Scoliosis Screenings
- ? On campus Parent Coordinator
- ? Open Parent Conferences – Available Daily
- ? Parent Advisory Committee
- ? Parental Contact for students in need of tutoring
- ? Parental Involvement Contract
- ? Parent Night (Open House)
- ? Parental Notification of Title I Read/Reading Recovery Students

- ? Parents to Attend Educational Conferences
- ? Parent/Teacher Conferences
- ? Parent Visitation Day
- ? Private/Business Donations
- ? Progress Reports
- ? School Musical
- ? Teacher E-mail
- ? Web-page