

# ELIZABETHTON CITY SCHOOLS

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## ELIZABETHTON CITY SCHOOLS PARENT/FAMILY INVOLVEMENT PLAN 2008 - 2009

The Elizabethton City School Board of Education adopted a parent/family involvement policy on July 21, 2005. The Director of Federal Projects, along with the Central Office Administrative Team, developed a matrix of activities to fulfill the requirements of the Parent/Family Involvement Policy.

The Elizabethton City School System has always worked closely to involve families in their child's education. This process was accelerated in the spring of 2005. At that time, a comprehensive Family Friendly Schools Survey was administered at each school in the Elizabethton City School System. Survey results were used to facilitate the development of a family involvement plan at each school. In addition, for the first time in education history, the city and county systems met in a joint session with Dr. Steven Constantino, Founder of the Family Friendly Schools Institute as the keynote speaker, to intensify efforts to take Family Engagement or Involvement to another level.

The Elizabethton City School System will continue to focus on increased parent/family involvement. Tennessee law regarding family involvement plans of local school districts requires the following:

1. Parents are to be represented on the LEA and building level parent/family involvement committees. These committees must focus on building the capacity of the schools and parents in activities and partnerships.
2. The district and each building level parent/family involvement programs will be evaluated annually. Parents will complete surveys, fill out evaluation forms concerning activities, and/or participate in committees to update Parent Involvement Plans. Parents will always be involved in the process of school review and improvement.
3. The LEA Parent Involvement Plan will be posted annually on the school system website. The website will be updated regularly with useful information for parents.
4. The district level parent/family engagement coordinator (Richard VanHuss) will be available to provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support as necessary to assist schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities. Improving student academic achievement and school performance should always be the focus of these activities. The coordinator will be available to explain achievement standards, assessments, programs of study, and course and curricular materials as needed.

5. The district and/or each school will report to parents, in a timely manner, standards to be taught and information concerning school level report cards. These will be placed on the school system website.
6. Each school will maintain a copy of the board policy manual in a convenient location for use by parents.
7. Each school, as well as the district, will maintain parent/family resource materials to assist in the distribution of information to all parents.
8. Parents will be extremely involved in the activities of all Title I schools. Parents will be involved in Title I meetings, the driving force for all school goals and programs. This will include an annual evaluation of the content of the parental involvement policy and it's effectiveness in improving the academic quality of the schools. These include:
  - ? Identifying barriers that prevent parents from participating in activities will be identified by each school. These barriers could be economically disadvantaged, disabled, English language learner, racial or ethnic minority, etc.;
  - ? Utilizing the findings of this evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement; and
  - ? Revising, if necessary, the LEA's parental involvement policies.
9. Title I schools will coordinate parent involvement activities and strategies with other programs, such as state-run pre-school programs.
10. Title I schools will track designated financial costs using federal funds for parent activities and the promotion of parenting skills.