



Westside Elementary

1310 Burgie Street
Elizabethton, Tennessee 37643
Ph: 423-547-8030 Fax: 423-547-8131

**DOUG MITCHELL,
PRINCIPAL**

Peggy Moore
Bookkeeper

Karen Vance
Secretary

School and Family Involvement Plan

Vision: Parents are their children's first and most important teachers. Research tells us that parent involvement is crucial to the success of all children. When schools welcome families, establish personal relationships among families and staff, help parents understand how the system works, and encourage family-staff collaboration to improve student achievement, and give timely, meaningful feedback, children succeed in school.

West Side Elementary is committed to openly engage all families to support school programs, to working as educational partners with our families, and to help **All** our students learn.

West Side Elementary encourages families to be:

- ✍ Teachers of their children at home
- ✍ Supporters of our school and of public education
- ✍ Advocates for their own and other children, and
- ✍ Decision-makers in school policy and practice

To be fully family-friendly, our school will provide:

1. A welcoming environment
 - ✍ Friendly signs welcome visitors and explain how to get around the building.
 - ✍ Standards of welcoming visitors apply to all staff, including front office staff, bus drivers, security guards, custodians and cafeteria workers.
 - ✍ Visitors and callers are greeted politely and right away and can get information easily.
2. Programs and activities to engage families in improving student achievement
 - ✍ Current student work is displayed throughout the building, so that visitors can understand the purpose of the work and the high standards it is to meet.
 - ✍ Programs and activities help families understand what their children are learning and promote high standards.
 - ✍ Workshops, learning kits, and other activities show families how to help their children at home—and respond to what families say they want to know about.
 - ✍ The school reports to parents about student progress and how teachers, parents and community members can work together to make improvements.
3. Strong relationships between teachers and families
 - ✍ The school welcomes new families, offers tours, and introduces them to staff and other families.
 - ✍ Teachers and families can meet face-to-face and get to know each other, through class meetings, breakfasts, and class observations.
 - ✍ Teachers make personal contact with each family as often as necessary to develop this teacher family relationship.
 - ✍ The principal will act as family liaison to help teachers connect to families and bridge barriers of language and culture.

ELIZABETHTON CITY SCHOOLS

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4. Opportunities for families to develop their skills, self-confidence and contacts
 - ✍ Families are involved in planning how they would like to be involved at the school.
 - ✍ School committees and parent organizations reflect the diversity of the school community and actively recruit and welcome families from all backgrounds.
 - ✍ The school is open and accessible-it is easy for parents to meet with the principal, talk to teachers and counselors, and bring up issues and concerns.
 - ✍ Parents develop school improvement projects and do action research-survey other families, observe in classrooms, review materials, and visit the schools and programs.
5. Professional development for families and staff on how to work together productively
 - ✍ Families learn how the school system works and how to be effective advocates for their children.
 - ✍ Teachers learn about successful approaches to working with families of diverse cultural backgrounds.
 - ✍ Families and staff can learn together how to collaborate to improve student achievement.
 - ✍ The school reaches out to identify and draw in local community resources that can assist staff and families.

This policy was developed by parents, teachers, support staff, and community members.

1. Review and revision of this policy will include focus groups with families, staff and community members, and a school climate survey to find out what is important to each.
 2. Annually the policy will be distributed widely for comment.
 3. Revisions to the policy will be made using these comments and it will be ratified by the school council, the parent organization, and the faculty.
- The policy will be reviewed every year and updated or revised as needed using the process described above.