

**Harold McCormick Elementary
Family and Community Engagement Plan
2016-2017**

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Mission Statement

Our mission is to build cooperative links among home, school, and community in an effort to provide a safe, nurturing environment in which students can become productive and responsible members of our society.

Parental Involvement Definition

Parental Involvement can be defined as the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. This involvement ensures that parents: a) play an integral role in assisting their child's learning. b) are encouraged to be actively informed and involved in their child's education, and c) are partners in their child's education and included as appropriate in decision making through advisory committees. Research overwhelmingly identifies parental involvement as a critical component to a child's academic success. Harold McCormick Elementary School will foster and support parental involvement as outlined in the following plan.

Parental Involvement Overview

Parents are children's primary educators and their encouragement and support are vital. Harold McCormick Elementary School recognizes that a child's education is a collaborative effort between the school and family. We acknowledge that collaborative efforts between school and home are essential to achieve academic success. Harold McCormick Elementary School is an accumulation of an enthusiastic faculty/staff, dedicated parents, and committed community agencies who seek to not only help every child reach their maximum potential, but also to instill the life long love of learning. The parent and community support is exemplified by the successful implementation of the many programs and incentives incorporated at HME.

Why is Family Engagement important? Family participation in education is twice as predictive of students' academic success as family socioeconomic status. Forty years of research show that when families are involved, students have:

- Higher grades, test scores, and graduation rates
- Better school attendance
- Increased motivation
- Better self-esteem
- Lower rates of behavior issues.

The Parent Involvement plan has been updated to include the Tennessee Parental Involvement Standards in an effort to increase collaboration and promote community ownership. It is our intent, Harold McCormick Faculty and Staff, to meet (or exceed) the goal(s) outlined in each standard.

Tennessee Parental Involvement Standards

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.

2: Communicating Effectively—Families and school staff engage in regular, meaningful communication about student learning.

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.

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.

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.

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.

School/Staff Beliefs

- A child's education is the responsibility of the student, the family, the community, and the school system.
- Students should be provided a safe, disciplined, and nurturing environment.
- Students should receive optimal instruction based on their individual abilities and needs.
- Students should be actively engaged in a variety of learning environments.
- Students should be provided an environment contributing to the development of intellectual, social, and physical skills.
- Students should be encouraged to develop and model high standards of character, which will foster respect for themselves and others.
- Students should be given the skills necessary to effectively communicate both orally and in writing.
- Students should be given opportunities to develop an awareness and appreciation of the related arts programs: Art, Computer, Guidance, Library, Music, and Physical Education.

Parental Support for Academic Success:

The school will provide materials and opportunities to help parents work with their children to improve academic success.

- Principal's Page- a bi-weekly memo from the principal, which outlines upcoming events, news to use, and special messages.
- Student handbook/agendas- an assignment book that outlines daily assignments.
- Supply lists and support for families in need.
- Aimsweb/Testing results
- Parent Meetings outlining curriculum and tools for assessment.
- Family Engagement Plan is online.
- Discovery Education-Website
- Brain Pop-Website

The school will provide effective two-way communication between families and school.

- Handbook for students and parents (updated & published online yearly).
- Letter(s) from teachers outlining expectations, homework and discipline
- Written notes, letters, and announcements
- Student Grade Reports (mid and end of term).
- Skyward Access for Parents (Review this daily)
- Newsletters (containing upcoming events, tips for helping students, etc.)
- School Web Site
 - www.hme.eschools.net
- Parent/Teacher conferences
 - Scheduled in calendar year
 - Teacher/Parent Need (at any time)
- Surveys (Family Friendly and School Improvement)
- Grade Level Parent Meetings (held at beginning of the school year to discuss handbook, classroom expectations, etc.)
- RTI Meetings
- IEP Meetings
- School Calendar
- New Releases (textbook-review, special events, student honors, etc.)
- Annual Meeting Outlining Title I Status
- ESL Assistance to families as needed
- Homeless Program through McKinney/Veto Act

Parent Education

The school will provide access to resources and information for families to help their child succeed.

- Parent Information available upon request
- School Nurse (provides consultation to families when necessary)
- Hearing/Vision Screenings (notification and consultation provided to parents)
- Counselor
- Title I School Compact

Parental Involvement in the School

The school will provide opportunities for parents and community to participate in school events.

- Parent Teacher Advisory Committee.
- School Improvement Committee.
- Volunteer Opportunities (Special events, Room Mom/Dad, Teacher assistance, Reading Programs, Guest Speakers, Beautification Projects)
- Meals w/student (parents may join child for lunch)
- Open House
- Parent Involvement Night K-2 (2 per year)
- Parent Involvement Night 3-5 (2 per year)
- Honors/Awards Assemblies
- Show Choir Concerts (two per year)
- Art Show
- Walk-a-thon
- Character Education Program
- A volunteer notebook is kept (used by teachers, committees, etc. when volunteer help is needed)
- Private business donations
- Parental Involvement Committee
- K-Kids

Staff Training In Parental Involvement

The school will educate teachers and paraprofessionals to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners.

- Family Friendly School Survey
- Directional signs in school building for easy access
- Family Engagement Faculty Coordinator
- Statistical analysis and data driven decision making

Shared Responsibilities for High Academic Success

The school provides additional assistance to promote academic success and implements appropriate disciplinary and attendance procedures.

- Student Tutoring (ELA/Math)
- Enrichment Activities
- K-Kids
- Reading Clubs
- Extended School Program (ESP)

Disciplinary Procedures

- Parent letters outlining classroom expectations
- School handbook describing disciplinary procedures
- Teacher Intervention: Consequences and rewards
- Parent Contract/Conference
- Office Referrals
- After School Detention/ In School Suspension

Attendance Procedures

- School Handbook- outlines attendance procedures and policies
 - 2016-2017 Updated Kindergarten Attendance Guideline
 - 3 unexcused absences will be referred to Attendance Review
- Grade Level Parent Meetings
- School/District Attendance Committee to assist families