
Tennessee Standards for Family School Partnerships

The Background:

Last legislative session, Senate Bill No. 293 was enacted, which requires 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/National_Standards_Assessment_Guide.pdf.

The Master Plan Connection:

This item supports the Board's *Master Plan* by supporting community-based resources sufficient to achieve the Board's vision.

The Recommendation:

The Tennessee Department of Education recommends acceptance of the Tennessee Standards for Family-School Partnerships on the first reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.

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.