

South Knoxville Elementary Family Engagement Plan 2020-2021

South Knoxville Elementary believes that school is a partnership between teachers, students, parents, and community. Research indicates that parental engagement is a critical factor in a child's ability to learn and be successful. With our status as a Community School and continuing this school year, there has been a steady increase of parent/family/community involvement at South Knoxville Elementary. We continue to strive to improve in areas identified by stakeholders.

Tennessee Standards for Family-School Partnerships are:

Standard 1: Welcoming all families into the school community

Standard 2: Communicating effectively

Standard 3: Supporting student success

Standard 4: Speaking up for every child

Standard 5: Sharing power

Standard 6: Collaborating with community

The policy addresses the federal and state requirements and supports the goals in the school plan, as well as Senate bill N. 293, which, requires schools to comply with the six standards above.

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:

South Knoxville Elementary School has completed the following steps:

- The building has been decorated and cleaned up to create a welcoming environment
- A safe and reliable car tag system has been implemented to ensure the safety of our car riders when students are dismissed at the end of the day
- An early release form was sent home to parents to let the staff know how students will be going home in the event of inclement weather or early dismissal for various reasons
- Ongoing activities are planned to engage parents throughout the year with the help of Community Schools. These activities focus on helping the parents and students be more successful at school and at home.
- The administrator has created a "Stakeholder Breakfast" monthly to illicit feedback from the partners.
- The school has worked hard to create a welcoming website that is easy to navigate to find information that parents need. A specific tab is designated for families at the top of the website

- A sign board in the lobby and a new digital sign in front of the school will be updated daily to display current information for parents.
- Hallways are clearly marked with signage to support students following COVID-19 Protocol

The family engagement events that meet the criteria for Standard 1 include:

- “Virtual Parent Orientation for School Plan”- July 21st 2020.
 - Parents and children are invited to discuss what the school plan looks like
 - Staff and community members discussed the Title 1 Family Engagement Plan
- School-Wide Virtual school meeting was held on July 22nd, 2020 to discuss how the staff would like to spend Title I funds
- Virtual Leadership Meeting was held on July 30th, 2020
 - Staff and community stakeholders discussed the school plan
 - Staff and community members looked at the school reopening plan
 - Staff and community members discussed the Title 1 Family Engagement Plan
- Dinner is served Monday-Thursday to families through the Community Schools program
- Parent Round Table (October 27th 8-10, 4-6, October 29th 8-10, November 4th 8-10, November 5th 8 -10)
- Author Visit Virtually – Ronda Friend – Sprint 2021
- Blount Mansion Monthly Meetings (November 2020 – May 2021)
- Art work is displayed in the hallway for parents to see
- Various activities are held and sponsored by our Community Schools throughout the year

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

- Information is kept in the office to inform parents about PreK, Family Resource Center, Internet Essentials and Active Parenting Teens
- Student handbooks are sent home at the beginning of the year, which contains school policies and expectations. The handbook can also be found on the website
- Title I handbooks were sent home at the beginning of the year because we conducted our Open House Virtually
- The school maintains a website for school information
- Positive phone calls or notes are sent home with students
- Teachers are expected to make a positive phone call to each parent of the students in their classroom within the first three weeks of school
- A daily folder is sent home with homework, agendas or comments from the teacher is sent home for the parents to sign. These folders are used for general communication purposes as well as behavior of the student.
- Teachers are asked to return phone calls to parents within 24 hours

- The marquee is kept current to provide information about upcoming events
- Monthly newsletters are on the website for easy access for parents to review
- Interim reports are sent home every 4½ weeks to inform parents of progress
- Report cards are sent home every 9 weeks for parents to review
- Teachers use Classdojo to communicate with parents on a daily basis about students' progress, daily activities, and school activities
- Teachers are required to have at least one parent conference with every parent in their classroom
- The principal maintains an open-door policy for parents, teachers and students to discuss concerns or answer questions
- The school has a twitter account where we share activities and happenings at South Knox

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.

- Data Board in hallway for community to view
- Community School providing enrichment classes based on need and interest of students
- Monthly Star Students
- The instructional coach work with teachers through Individual Learning Cycles (ILCs) and professional development to increase teacher knowledge and improve student achievement.
- S-Team meetings are held as a process to support students struggling with academics, behavior and attendance. This process may lead to formal referrals for academic testing.
- PIT meetings are held the first Thursday of each month. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss academics, emotional and social needs of our students. This committee consists of our social worker, school psychologist, administrator, Helen Ross McNabb counselor, Community Schools director and school nurse
- An intervention program for students scoring below the 25% is implemented to support skill development for these students. RTI2 is organized and implemented by our RTI2 Coordinator. These interventions are teacher directed as well as some teaching assistants and consists of some computer time.
- A backpack program is done for students who need food for the weekend. There are approximately 30 students receiving food. Second Harvest supplies the food items for this program
- Local churches, community members and teachers work together to supply new clothes and toys to many of our students and their families.
- Project Hope (sponsor is First Baptist Church) brings in over 30 mentors to provide one on one interactions with students who otherwise might fall through the cracks in terms on socialization.

- The school social worker as well as our school nurse works with free clinics, local eye doctors and available services to provide glasses, check-ups, clothes and shoes for our students that need these services
- Outside services such as Helen Ross McNabb provides a part time in school counselor for some of our students as well as case managers
- In-school tutoring, we have a teacher who comes in once a week to work with students in grades K & 1 to support their learning in reading and math. The tutor works with specific students based on data and conversations with the teachers.

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.

- Community volunteers are assigned to work with specific students to support them emotionally and academically
- An intervention program for students scoring 25% or below on the AIMS web assessment is implemented to support skill development in the area of reading and math. These interventions are teacher directed as well as some teaching assistants and consists of some computer time
- S-Team meetings are held as a process to support students struggling with academics, behavior and attendance. This process may lead to formal referrals for academic testing.
- PIT meetings are held the first Thursday of each month. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss academics, emotional and social needs of our students. This committee consists of our social worker, school psychologist, administrator, Helen Ross McNabb counselor, Community Schools director and school nurse
- Outside services such as Helen Ross McNabb provides a part time in school counselor for some of our students as well as case managers
- The school social worker as well as our school nurse works with free clinics, local eye doctors and available services to provide glasses, check-ups, clothes and shoes for our students that need these services
- A staff PBIS meeting is held monthly to determine the behavior support students may need in the classroom to ensure high quality instruction.

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.

- Virtual Parent meetings are held the first two weeks of school that outline the grade level expectations, curriculum, student materials and classroom expectations
- Monthly Community School Steering Committee Meetings to discuss ways to better serve our kids and community

- Administration meets with Stakeholders each month at local eatery to discuss issues in a nonthreatening environment
- SKE formed a student council that meets monthly to discuss topics
- Leadership Team votes on how to best spend allocated funds from a variety of sources
- A school-wide school meeting is held to discuss the Title I program and the benefits of this program for students are presented
- A student handbook is distributed to all students in the fall. The handbook is also located on our website
- Title I handbooks are sent home during the first week of school.
- PTA board meetings are held with staff members and interested parents to discuss plans for expenditures and the needs of the students
- Parent conferences are held twice a year. Teachers meet with parents as the need arises to meet student's needs. The parents of special ed students meet at least once a year or more often to assess their program.
- The School Improvement Plan is developed and shared with the Leadership Team and staff
- The administration oversees all teacher evaluation and programs. The Lead Teacher shares in the evaluation of teachers and the follow up of teacher implementation of strategies in the classroom
- The instructional coach is responsible for implementing Professional Learning Communities bi-weekly and provide both group and individual support to teachers as needed.
- The Leadership/Lighthouse Team meets on a monthly basis to voice their concerns and praises about our school

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.

- Community partners support the school through a variety of ways-volunteering, working with specific programs and monetarily
- We have partnered with churches, Children's Hospital, and other agencies for the past year. They have provided mentors for our school.
- The Community School Resource Director and administration did a reverse trick of treat to introduce ourselves to the businesses along Sevier Ave.
- Old Sevier Group meets at our school monthly. The administration and several staff members attend these meetings.
- The administration and newly formed SKE student council meet monthly with community leaders to discuss leadership opportunities.
- Several churches in the area support our school through their food pantry and provide breakfast or lunch for our staff

- Our afterschool program, Boys and Girls Club, supports our staff with treats, providing a service for our parents and providing a lunch for our teachers and staff
- The PTA is a up and coming organization at SKE, this year we hope to officially organize and provide teachers with snacks and a luncheon during Teacher Appreciation Week.
- We have several active participants in the local Let's Move event as well as the administration and PE specialist are members of the city of Knoxville Board
- SKE Cares Day was a clean up day for SKE. We will have another one in the Spring.

The South Knoxville Elementary Parent Plan was created starting in August 2017 and revised in August 2020.