

The Board of Education is aware of the constructive role which parent-teacher groups play in the school system. The effective leadership provided by the PTA organizations and advisory councils is valuable to the improvement of educational programs and community support of schools. The Board shall offer these groups its cooperation and shall urge parents, teachers and administrators to become active participants.

PARENT/FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

In keeping with the belief that learning should take place at home, in school and in the community and with research showing that parent involvement is the single most important indicator of school success, the School Board of Cherokee County has identified **“Increasing parental and community involvement through public engagement policies and practices that treat parents, businesses, community-based organizations and agencies, local institutions of higher learning and other public entities as true partners in the educational process”** as a major system priority. The purpose of this policy is to promote meaningful parent and family participation and to identify standards for effective parent/family involvement.

Other School Board policies that directly support parent/family involvement are School Accountability and Public Participation at School Board Meetings.

The parent/family involvement policy is adopted from “National Standards for Parent and Family Involvement Programs,” developed by National PTA.

The specific initiatives and procedures for implementing this policy will be included in the District Strategic Plan; for example, schools should extend an offer to parents/guardians to attend parent/teacher conferences.

I. Parent’s Responsibilities

Assumptions:

1. In order for students to achieve, parents must provide a climate in the home that supports education; sets high but reasonable expectations for student learning; and be involved in their children’s education at school and in the community.
2. Students whose parents are involved in the above manner have better grades, higher test scores, better attendance records and more homework assignments completed.
3. Regardless of socio-economic status, ethnic/racial background or education level, when parents are involved in their children’s education process, students achieve more.
4. When parents and teacher collaborate, there are higher expectations for the students’ success.

5. There are significant benefits for learners when parents of students of all ages and all grades are directly involved with their education.
6. There are many different ways for parents to be involved in their child's education. To have long-lasting results, parent and family involvement activities must be planned, continuous, inclusive and comprehensive.

II. Schools' Responsibilities
Assumptions:

1. Schools that work well with families improve teacher morale and engender more teacher support by parents.
2. When parents receive frequent and effective communication from a school and school system, their attitude about the school is more positive and their involvement increases. A school's and the system's practices to inform and involve parents are strong determinants in the frequency and quality of parent involvement.
3. Parents contribute most effectively to improved student achievement and school effectiveness when they are treated as equal partners and given needed information in a timely manner.
4. Parent and family involvement is a critical component of school reform. It is not a substitute for high quality educational programs, effective instruction or systemic research-based school improvement.

III. Standards for Family Involvement*

- A. *Communicating* – Communication between home and school is common, consistent, two-way and meaningful.
- B. *Parenting* – Parenting skills are promoted and supported.
- C. *Volunteering* – Parents are welcome in schools, and their support and assistance are actively sought and appreciated.
- D. *School Decision-Making and Advocacy* – Parents are full partners in decisions that affect children and families.
- E. *Collaborating with the Community* – Community resources are used and/or redirected to strengthen schools, families and student learning.
- F. *Student Learning* – Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning.

*Adopted from "National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs," used by permission of National PTA.

ADOPTED: August 2, 2001
Cherokee County Board of Education