



South Side School

Family Engagement Plan 2023-2024

Purpose

The South Side Family Engagement Plan was developed to:

- Support Goal Four of the Board of Education's Five Year Strategic Plan as well as the system's District Level Plan (InformTN /eplan).
- Support the initiatives found in the Consolidated Federal Projects Application.
- Create a common vision of family engagement and resources needed to sustain that vision.
- Increase and improve the level of family involvement in our students' education.

Plan

Component 1: South Side School is committed to involving families in policy development.

Indicators:

1. Parents will have an opportunity to discuss and provide input through Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) and monthly Site Based Council meetings.
2. Parents will be represented on South Side School's Site Based Council and will be involved in the development of the Family Engagement Plan and school Eplan.
3. Parents and educators will have the opportunity to provide input through surveys and postings on the system and school's web page.
4. Cultural, economic, language, demographic, and equity issues will be given attention through focus groups, as in our district level Equity Team.
5. The system will provide parents of English Language Learners the opportunity to provide input at specific community meetings with our system interpreter.
6. South Side School has a parent/school compact as part of its parent involvement plan. This compact describes how parents, staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement.



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Component 2: The Family Engagement Plan includes technical assistance and planning support for effective family engagement.

Indicators:

1. Parents are notified of South Side's parent involvement plan in understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand through a link on the website.
2. South Side has an annual parent meeting to inform parents about the school's parent involvement programs and the right of parents to be involved at a PTA meeting.
3. Title I parent involvement activities will be coordinated with parent involvement activities of other programs such as Prekindergarten and ESL programs.
4. School and classroom newsletters are sent home on a regular basis and contain information regarding report cards, test results, new programming options, and suggestions for parents to become involved in their child's education.
5. The district report card and other key sources of information are linked to the district web site and to our schools' web site. Report cards and student assessments are sent home to students each quarter at South Side. Conferences may be set up as needed with the teacher.
6. Parents and families are invited in the fall to the school for parent/teacher conferences. Additional conferences are scheduled based on student need throughout the year. These conferences further strengthen the personal contact efforts to assure student success. Parents who are not able to attend conferences are offered phone or Zoom meetings as needed.
7. Curriculum and state standards may be accessed by a link from the district website to the state department website.
8. Assistance is provided to parents in better understanding state standards, local assessments, and how to monitor student progress, while working with teachers to improve student achievement through family connect workshops and grade level parents meeting.
9. Workshops for parents are scheduled through "The Learning Center", located in the central office building of Johnson City Schools.
10. Title I and the PTA Council co-host an annual program "A Look into Our Schools" to provide information regarding federal programs and expenditures and to collect feedback from parents.



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11. Information related to school and parent programs, to the extent practicable, will be sent in a language parents can understand.

Component 3: The Family Engagement Plan supports clearly articulated goals for extent and type of family engagement.

Indicators:

1. A variety of planned, goal-oriented programs will be created and implemented to engage all parents in their children's education in one or more of the following categories:
 - a) *parenting* (strategies to promote effective parenting practices at home)
 - i. *Parenting workshops from The Learning Center*
 - ii. *South Side school and CARE counselor available to discuss parenting needs*
 - b) *communicating* (strategies to promote positive school-home communication)
 - i. *School monthly newsletter*
 - ii. *Classroom monthly newsletter*
 - iii. *Open House*
 - iv. *Student planners*
 - v. *School website, Bloomz App communication, Canvas & Seesaw messages*
 - vi. *On-going conferences, phone calls, email*
 - c) *volunteering* (opportunities for parents to volunteer or be an audience at school)
 - i. *Parent volunteers*
 - ii. *Parent Teacher Association (PTA) activities, School Council*
 - d) *learning at home* (learning activities to involve parents with students at home)
 - i. *Family Involvement Nights including Family Reading Night, STEM Night, and Art Night*
 - ii. *Rejoice in the Arts*
 - e) *decision making* (opportunities to engage in decision making, governance, and advocacy roles at both the school and system level)
 - i. *School Council Parent Representative*
 - ii. *PTA Meetings*
 - f) *collaborating with the community* (activities/events that foster school-community partnerships)
 - i. *Coalition for Kids*
 - ii. *Girls on the Run*
 - iii. *Second Harvest Food Programming*



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- iv. *Boys and Girls Club*
 - v. *Girls Inc.*
 - vi. *America Read tutors/ETSU & Milligan interns and student teachers*
 - vii. *Grandview Christian Church: Mentors Matter*
2. Sign-in sheets and other forms of documentation will be kept on file and reviewed to provide feedback concerning the quality of our involvement programs.
 3. South Side will offer a flexible number of parent meetings.
 4. Reasonable support for parent involvement activities will be provided per parent request.
 5. To the extent practicable, opportunities will be provided for full participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.

Component 4: The Family Engagement Plan provides for an evaluation process to promote continuous improvement of the engagement of all families.

Indicators:

1. Annual surveys will be conducted at the system level to identify barriers to greater participation; to design more effective strategies; and to revise, if necessary, the parent involvement plan.
2. Survey results will be analyzed to measure the effectiveness of the plan and to secure input regarding modifications in future practices.
3. Measurable goals for increasing the level and quality of family involvement are required as part of every school improvement plan.

Component 5: The Family Engagement Plan requires family engagement at all school sites.

Indicators:

1. South Side (including schools served under Title I) will develop a Family Engagement Plan jointly with parents, agreed on with parents, distributed to parents, and submitted as an annual update of the plan to the district office



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2. Each school will set a goal for family engagement for each major strategy.
3. All schools will submit their plans to the central office for review and evaluation.

Component 6: The Family Engagement Plan includes procedures for parents to access and understand course of study or curricular materials as well as Federal, state, and local standards.

Indicators:

1. The district website will contain a link to the Tennessee State Department of Education where the state curriculum for each grade level and subject area can be accessed.
2. Progress indicators on elementary report cards will be aligned with state standards.
3. The textbook adoption process will provide an opportunity for potential textbooks to be reviewed by parents and the community.
4. "The Learning Center", located in the Johnson City Schools central office building, will have specific activities and materials set aside for the involvement of families.
5. The system uses a variety of communication tools to support conversations between teachers and families such as the Bloomz app, the Parent Portal and the School Messenger system.

Component 7: The Family Engagement Plan encourages the support of district involvement in positive parenting skills.

Indicators:

1. Parenting workshops will be offered through "The Learning Center" and an annual special education conference provided by the district.
2. Materials and training are provided to help parents work with their children to improve their achievement, such as literacy training and using technology to foster parental involvement.
3. "The Learning Center" will provide a variety of parenting materials for review and checkout.
4. After school tutoring and homework programs will be provided to improve student homework and achievement.



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5. Parents will receive phone calls to confirm student absences and to encourage better student attendance; a letter will be sent home once a student has accrued five unexcused absences; South Side will receive funding to develop attendance incentives.
6. South Side will develop reward programs to acknowledge good character and good student behavior (i.e. Character Counts, Grit Slips, recognition during weekly assemblies).

Component 8: The Family Engagement Plan incorporates family involvement in decision making and governance.

Indicators:

1. South Side School staff members are friendly towards, respectful of, and helpful to all families.
2. South Side has family representation on the Site Based Council.
3. South Side has several ways of listening to parents and engaging them in two-way communication (for example, two way writing in planners, open door policy, and providing ways to give inputs on the school website).
4. Parent representatives will serve on each school's School Improvement Planning Process (SIPP) team as well as on the system's District Level Planning Committee (ePlan) core team. Parents are also represented each time the Johnson City Schools Board of Education updates its five-year plan.

Component 9: The Family Engagement Plan supports professional development to build the capacity for family engagement.

Indicators:

1. Professional development in the area of family engagement will be provided to all staff members. Staff will be educated in the value and contributions of parents, in working with parents, and in building positive relationships between parents and schools.
2. Families will have opportunities to be included in family engagement training.
3. Schools will be supported by the district office in planning/implementing family engagement activities for the purpose of improving student achievement.



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Component 10: The Family Engagement Plan specifies budget and funding for family engagement.

Indicators:

1. South Side has adequate staff and resources to implement the district family involvement standards.
2. District and site-based budgets will reflect a commitment to the effective development, implementation, and evaluation of family engagement programs including but not limited to the following:
 - System wide Spanish interpreter
 - Talking Points language translation service
 - System and school level newsletters and other publications
 - Staff development
3. The Learning Center will serve as a clearinghouse to gather best practices, ideas, materials, new approaches, research, and other program information in order to help schools improve family involvement programs.
4. All Title I schools will designate at least 1% of the Title I A budget for parent involvement activities.

Component 11: The Family Engagement Plan encourages families and school staff to work together with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

Indicators:

1. Partnerships between schools and community organizations will be encouraged including but not limited to: *Coalition for Kids, Boys and Girls Club, Girls Inc., Carver Recreation Center, The Langston Centre, ETSU, Milligan University, and Northeast State Community College.*
2. South Side's parent involvement plan is made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.