



## Parent Involvement Plan

The Trenton Special School District Parent Involvement Plan is based on the framework through which families, educators, and communities can work together to improve teaching and learning. Families have a major influence on children's success in school and throughout life. As a result of this influence, positive results with student achievement occur when schools, families, and community groups work together to support learning.

Research indicates that a positive partnership between school and family will contribute to student achievement and success in school. These benefits include:

- Improved ability of parents to assist their children with school and learning
- Increased student achievement
- Increased student attendance
- Improved student attitudes and positive behavior
- Increased graduation rate
- Greater success in post-secondary education

The TSSD Parent Involvement Plan was developed to build trusting, collaborative relationships among administrators, teachers, families, and community members. It focuses on family needs as well as their cultural differences. As a working document, this plan seeks to alleviate barriers or factors which might inhibit meaningful interaction between parents and school personnel. This document will continue to grow and develop as the current process is evaluated annually for effectiveness.

Through collaboration, coordination, technical assistance, and other support, the Trenton Special School District administration, teachers, parents, and community leaders offer the following plan for parental involvement in our Title 1A schools. This plan is in compliance with local board policy and state and federal law and is accessible to all on the district website.

In 2009, the Tennessee Department of Education was required to develop parental involvement standards for public schools. The standards listed below are based on the PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships. These standards serve as guidelines for Trenton Special School District as we strive to reach families and our community.

**Standard 1: Welcoming all families in 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 in school.**

- All families are welcomed and opportunities are available for families to develop personal relationships with teachers and school staff. All school policies and programs respect the diversity of families and promote families and parents working together.
- Schools will host a parent orientation at the beginning of the school year that will provide academic information concerning state standards, academic assessment, grading and homework policies.
- A special focus is placed on identifying barriers that might prevent parental involvement. The district will survey parents annually, allowing administrators the opportunity to recognize what barriers are preventing parents from participation and to develop strategies that will ensure all parents involvement.
- Throughout the district, volunteer opportunities are available during the school day as well as on various school committees.

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

- Teachers and parents frequently communicate about student progress in school.
- Parent Portal is available for parents with internet capabilities. This program allows parents immediate information concerning student grades, schedules, attendance and discipline records.
- District and school events are publicized for parents and community in a timely manner.
- District and school websites provide valuable information including calendars, announcements and email addresses.
- Information is communicated in languages that will reach all parents.

**Standard 3: Supporting student success- Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students' learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skill to do so effectively.**

- The district works collaboratively with other local agencies and organizations to improve family and community involvement. Organizations include: Family Resource Center, Coordinated School Health, Federal Programs, Head Start, Imagination Library, etc.
- The district will oversee system-wide program coordination that will ensure the integration of school and community resources. This will maximize opportunities for children and provide seamless transitions.
- Schools provide opportunities and resources for parents to learn effective ways to support their child's academic success.

**Standard 4: Speaking up for every child- Families are empowered to be advocates for their own children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.**

- District-wide goals are in place to identify effective academic strategies and monitor progress of all students. Students are provided additional assistance when needed and parents are encouraged to participate when decisions are made concerning their child's school success.
- Parents are offered workshops and resources to guide them in helping their child make the best educational choices. Information is made available for parents with limited English proficiency in a language parents understand.
- The district employs a homeless liaison to represent any homeless children that might enter the school system.

**Standard 5: Sharing Power- Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.**

- The Parent and Community Advisory Council will annually assess the effectiveness of the district's Parent Involvement Program and determine what action needs to be taken, if any, to increase parental and community participation. In order to accomplish this, the council will be composed of representatives from parents of students in elementary, middle, and high school, community leaders, and representatives from the school district.
- Efforts will be made to include parents of diverse student groups.
- Families are encouraged to attend all district and school meetings and participate in school improvement efforts.
- An annual survey will be conducted allowing parents the opportunity to share their ideas concerning current policies, practices and programs.

**Standard 6: Collaborating with Community- Families and staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.**

- The district works closely with local businesses, our community college, youth organizations, civic groups, churches, and local government to provide the best "all around" educational experience available for our students. Community support is strong and compliments the resources available by the school system.
- There is a focus across the district to build a family/community friendly environment where parents, school leaders, and community leaders work closely together to strengthen schools.

It is the goal of the Trenton Special School District to promote meaningful involvement among educators, families, and community. Guidance provided by the Parent and Community Advisory Council as well as parent survey data, will lead the district to clear parent

involvement action steps. These steps will be communicated to all stakeholders and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents, students, and schools.