

East Hickman Intermediate School

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

The Purpose

EHIS's Parent & Family Engagement Policy was constructed to encourage family engagement, create a common vision among children, families, teachers, community members, and administrators.

The Plan

Standard 1: Welcoming ALL Families We want to welcome and value families, teachers, and administrators in the planning, revision, and carrying out of programs, communication, and meetings to make the atmosphere at EHIS a positive, welcoming, and safe learning environment. We have phone conferences when needed, two scheduled Parent-Teacher conferences with childcare provided, and annual 504 and IEP Meetings. We have Open House/Orientation, Family Nights, and Eagle Strut. Leadership Committees meet monthly. Families may access and/or communicate through EHIS's website, electronic marquee, Facebook, Remind, Skylert, Skyward, cell phone texts, email messages, newsletters, and surveys.

Standard 2: Communicating Effectively We include technical assistance for readily available communication for families, teachers, community members, administrators and staff. Families receive communications via EHIS's website, electronic marquee, Facebook, Remind, Skylert, Skyward, email messages, cell phone texts, and every-nine-week phone calls. Information related to school programs, meetings, and other activities is shared with families in a language the families can understand.

Standard 3: Supporting Student Success We encourage regular opportunities for families to strengthen their knowledge and skills to help their children to succeed academically. Fall/Spring Family Nights have book fairs, prizes, games, and family workshops to help educate families on learning strategies and curriculum. Families are invited to serve as members of the School-wide Leadership Committee and can bring any concerns relating to the education of their children. The purpose of scheduled or requested Parent-Teacher Conferences, 504 meetings, and IEP meetings are to discuss the child's progress, share concerns, and make suggestions between families and teachers. Newsletters from administrators are sent home regarding end-of-year testing and outlining how families can help prepare their child. An Open House and Orientation are provided to help explain how the school functions. Explanations of the curriculum, forms of assessments, and achievement levels are communicated to families. An annual meeting with flexible and varied times is held to inform families of the school's participation in & explain requirements of Title I.

Standard 4: Speaking Up for Every Child We provide information to families to enable them to be advocates for children, ensuring fairness and equal opportunities in the children's education. School and district calendar of events are given to families telling of yearly events. Sign-in sheets, meeting agendas, and minutes are kept on file to assess family participation. Reasonable opportunities are provided for families with limited English proficiencies and/or disabilities. Family members have the opportunity to be a part of the Leadership Team and School Improvement Planning.

Standard 5: Sharing Power We strive to have family involvement in the making of policies, procedures, and activities planning. Families are invited to serve as members of the School-Wide Leadership Committee and are able to bring any concerns relating to the education of their children. We make Family-School Compacts and surveys to gain insight from all stakeholders. There is a Suggestion Corner at Open House/Orientation and Family Nights where families can voice praises, concerns, and opinions written and verbally. Families are included in committee meetings to review/revise the Family Engagement Policy and the School Improvement Plan.

Standard 6: Collaborating with Community We reach out to the community, students, families, and staff by expanding our learning opportunities, community services/events, and civic participation. Surveys are sent to all stakeholders for the purpose of using data to plan the next year. Families are able to eat Thanksgiving and Christmas lunches with their children. Each classroom is adopted by a community organization who provides support throughout the year. Adopt a Classroom Local churches make weekend snack bags for eligible students. Friday Friends During our annual Career Day, a wide range of careers are brought on-site where children engage and interact with community members. Hickman County 4-H agent provides monthly instruction to 4th and 5th grade students, and our students interact with high school 4-H members. Community members, family members, and district employees are proctors during our TCAP TNReady testing.