

Tennessee School Boards Association

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in November	Descriptor Term: Family Engagement	Descriptor Code: 4.5021	Issued Date:
		Rescinds:	Issued:

1 Families and community members should be engaged in the education of students based on the follow-
2 ing standards:¹

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- 4 • Families are welcomed into the school community;
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- 6 • Families and school staff should engage in regular and meaningful communication about
7 student learning;
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- 9 • Families and school staff work together to support student learning and development;
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- 11 • Families are informed and encouraged to be advocates for students;
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- 13 • Families are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families; and
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- 15 • Community, civic, and business resources are made available to strengthen school programs,
16 family practices, and student learning.
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18 Schools shall establish and develop programs and practices that enhance family engagement and address
19 the specific needs of students and families. Decisions affecting students, schools, and established school
20 procedures shall always be made within the parameters of legal and Board of Education policies. The
21 programs and practices will be comprehensive and coordinated and will include the following goals:

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- 23 I. Assist families in developing skills and techniques to support their children's learning.
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- 25 II. Promote clear, two-way communication between school and family about school issues, instruc-
26 tional programs, and children's progress.
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- 28 III. Identify and reduce barriers to family engagement, including such barriers as those of economic
29 concerns, disabilities, limited English proficiency, limited literacy, or issues related to cultural
30 diversity.
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- 32 IV. Inform, involve, and train family members, where appropriate, in voluntary instructional and
33 support roles at school.
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- 35 V. Provide information about community and support services for children and families.
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- 37 VI. Include families in decision-making affecting schools and programs when consistent with law and
38 board policy.
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- 40 VII. Provide professional development for teachers and staff on ways to work effectively with parents,
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families, and volunteers.

VIII. Provide access to the family engagement policy for each family and post the policy in each school.

Legal Reference:

1. TCA 49-6-7001-7003; State Board of Education - *Tennessee Parent Family Involvement Policy*