

Obion County Schools

Family and Community Engagement Plan

Background

The formulation of this plan began in January 2005 when six members of the leadership team attended a two-day planning session conducted by Dr. Stephen Constantino provided by the State Department of Education in Nashville, Tennessee. This planning session focused on strategies to increase parental involvement in Tennessee schools. The Family and Community Engagement Plan is based on the belief that families are crucial to the academic successes of their children throughout their school years, as well as, their entire lives.

Culture Statement

The Obion County Board of Education strives to maintain good family/community involvement in the school system by keeping citizens informed about policies/procedures, involving citizens in planning, encouraging parents/community members to visit our schools, and promoting our system in the media.

Family and Community Advisory Council

- James Faulkner, chairperson, Materials Supervisor, Obion County Schools
- Nancy Hamilton, Assistant Director, Obion County Schools
- Dennis Buckelew, parent, principal of Lake Road Elementary School
- Mary Lynn Dodson, Director of Special Education, Obion County Schools
- Lesa Scillion, parent, Director of Federal Projects, Obion County Schools
- Vikki Stevenson, parent, Supervisor of Instruction, Obion County Schools
- Dale Hollowell, parent, Assistant Director, Obion County Schools
- Craig Rogers, assistant principal, Obion County Central High School
- Elise Braswell, principal of South Fulton Elementary School
- Tony Jones, parent
- Lori Robertson, parent

Purpose

The Obion County School System Family and Community Engagement Plan was developed to address the following:

- ❖ **Standard 1:** Create a common vision to increase student achievement and success by involving family and community in the education process.

Indicators:

1. Stakeholders are involved in developing the District Parent Involvement Plan.
2. Parent Involvement information is found on the Obion County Schools website.
3. Various organizations are a part of the education process, i.e., PTO, Athletic Booster Clubs, Band Booster Clubs.
4. Obion County Schools and Head Start have a memorandum of understanding.

5. Meetings are held twice per year with parents of PreK students.
6. Title I schools hold annual planning/informational meetings that involve parents.
7. Performance and progress are communicated to parents through a variety of media.

❖ **Standard 2:** Set guidelines for all schools in the district.

Indicators:

1. There is a written policy on file and available to all stakeholders.
2. The policy is evaluated annually and revised as needed.
3. The policy is currently available in English and Spanish but will be available in other languages as needed.

❖ **Standard 3:** Encourage individual schools to make a concerted effort to involve family and community on their campuses and in homes of students.

Indicators:

1. Schools are supported in their efforts to provide parent involvement activities.
2. Schools hold Open Houses at the beginning of each year.
3. Parent-teacher conferences are held twice each year.
4. Funds are set aside for parental involvement events.
5. Building administrators are available to conference with parents upon request.

❖ **Standard 4:** Provide full opportunities for family involvement for parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.

Indicators:

1. Information about meetings, events, student policies, reports, etc., is translated in parents' home language.
2. All families are welcome regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age.

Goals of the Obion County Board of Education:

1. To create a welcoming environment on each campus
2. To improve parent involvement in student achievement
3. To improve community communication and input into school system policies.

Goal 1: Create a welcoming environment on each campus.

Strategies:

- Post welcome signs at main entrances.
- Personally invite parents of struggling students (those performing on a D or F level) to conferences.
- Communicate with parents in their home language.

- Conduct individual school “Open House” each fall inviting parents and community leaders to attend.
- Promote and participate in parent-teacher organizations which support the school and its activities.
- Solicit parent volunteers for various school activities.
- Promote parent reading initiatives of elementary stakeholders as scheduled.
- Provide before-school and after-school programs for working parents where feasible per school.
- Encourage parents and grandparents to visit schools and participate in certain activities with their children and grandchildren.

Goal 2: Improve parent involvement in student achievement.

Strategies:

- Expand system-wide parent conferences from six hours to nine hours per year. Individual parent conferences are available by appointment.
- Offer translation services at parent meetings.
- Institute an informational program for parents as their children transition from one campus to another.
- Offer child-care services in conjunction with parent meetings as appropriate.
- Provide parents/students with 4 ½-week student progress reports and access to online Parent Portal.
- Request parent signatures on 9-week progress reports.
- Provide alternative parent-teacher conferences as requested for parents who have children who attend more than one school.
- Provide extended school tutoring which promotes regular parent communication regarding student progress.
- Expand the student mentoring program.
- Conduct parent/student orientation for all newly enrolled freshman students.

Goal 3: Improve community communication and input into school system policies.

Strategies:

- Advertise all meetings in newspapers, on radio stations, and via the parent notification system.
- Arrange to have school board meetings at each school site at least once each year.
- Regularly showcase positive aspects of our school system at monthly meetings.
- The school system will appoint a Family and Community Advisory Council, which will review system family involvement practices annually.
- The Family and Community Advisory Council will recommend changes as needed based on its review and input from the local community.
- The Advisory Council will report the system’s progress toward reaching these goals to the Obion County School Board annually.

Additional information concerning the Obion County School District or any of the individual schools can be found on the district’s website at:

<http://www.obioncountyschools.com>

To access the Report Card for Obion County Schools:

1. Go to <http://www.obioncountyschools.com>.
2. Under the District Information link, click on **Report Card** which will load the state’s webpage.
3. Click on the tab that says “System” and choose “Obion County” from the drop-down menu.
4. The information contained under each tab is for the entire school system. To view your child’s school Report Card, click on “School” and select the name of the school you wish to view.