



The administration of Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools recognizes the value and importance of meaningful, two-way parental involvement at the school and district level. Parents are key stakeholders and are invited as partners in helping all students acquire the knowledge and skills to meet or exceed No Child Left Behind proficiency standards. This policy was developed jointly with and distributed to stakeholders in Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools.

The MNPS parental involvement policy includes input from parents, community members and school and district personnel in compliance with all pertinent mandates of state and federal regulatory standards as the following:

- All parents have access to many types and levels of involvement, with no person excluded based on race, religion, creed, gender, socio-economic status, physical impairment or age.
 - **All schools, including Title I schools will:**
 - Offer a flexible number of meetings in order to include as many parents as possible, including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.
 - Provide multiple opportunities for parents to voice concerns and make suggestions related to the school and district improvement plan strategies. That input will be considered by the school and district for needed improvements. Opportunities that can be provided include monthly parent advisory council meetings, daily Customer Service Center hotline access, PTA/PTO meetings, school improvement committee meetings, school suggestion boxes and school newsletters.
 - **Title I Schools only will:**
 - Conduct an annual meeting with parents for the purpose of discussing the school's participation in Title I programs such as SES, Choice, Free and Reduced Lunch, Migrant Education, Distinguished Schools, etc. and the rights of parents to be involved in those programs.
 - Provide multiple opportunities for parents to provide input for developing and revising policies relating to parent involvement,

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including the use of school and district level Parent Involvement funds, and on policies at the school level. Parents will also be asked to share suggestions for improving target participation in student learning. Formal parent complaints concerning school plans will be submitted to the school district when the school makes the plan available publicly.

- Conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the school parent involvement policy and the district parent involvement policy, including identification of barriers to greater participation by parents of diverse backgrounds. Such findings will be used to design more effective strategies for parent involvement.
- For the purpose of this document, the words parents/family represents individuals within the extended family of the student or persons with a legitimate interest in the student who are the student's legal guardians.

Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement

- **All schools will:**
 - Provide parents a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
 - Invite all parents to provide suggestions for removing barriers to student learning or voice concerns. Strategies to achieve this will include parent participation on each School Improvement Plan committee, teacher-parent conferences, school newsletters, parent surveys, parent meetings, parent advisory groups, school websites, phone call-out messages, anonymous suggestion boxes and the Customer Service Parent Hotline.
- **Title I Schools only will:**
 - Jointly develop, with parents, a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, school staff and students will share responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The following information will be included:
 - How the school provides high quality curriculum and instruction
 - How the parent will support their student's learning at home and at school with recommendations such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, TV watching, positive use of extracurricular time, volunteering, observation in the classroom and involvement in educational decisions concerning their children.
 - The importance of meaningful, two-way on-going communication between teachers and parents through meetings, phone calls, conferences, technology and progress reports

Building Capacity for Involvement

MNPS will build capacity for increased parental involvement using the following guidelines:

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- Provide reasonable support for parent involvement activities such as the provision of speakers, translators, transportation, childcare, service hotlines, phone call-outs, parent resource centers, and Tennessee Parent information Resource Center – currently Tennessee Voices for Children.
- Notify parent representatives regarding cluster and district parent advisory council meetings in a timely manner.
- Provide access to curriculum materials and training sessions to help parents work with their students to improve their academic achievement in reading and math, literacy training, technology use, parenting sessions which focus on middle and adolescent development, communicating effectively with educators, volunteering, accessing community resources and serving as leaders.
- Provide collaborative training sessions for staff and parents to develop mutual appreciation and a better understanding of the role all of us play in the development of our students. This training will include how to communicate with and work effectively with parents as partners and will consist of discussions “best practices’ among school staff, administrators and community leaders.
- Coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with community organizations such as Head Start, Parents Are Teachers, early childhood programs and Family Resource Centers.
- Encourage parent representatives to attend cluster meetings to share their school’s accomplishments and concerns/needs each month.
- Provide daily assistance to parents through the Customer Service Center ensuring that parents are given an opportunity to call an information hotline to request information, assistance, or voice a concern or complaint. Customer Service Staff will function as the parent’s advocate in resolving the matter or securing the requested information in a timely manner.
- All parents will be offered the same opportunities to participate in training sessions including but not limited to: state academic and content standards, state/local assessments, monitoring students progress, literacy program opportunities, home learning activities to strengthen their child’s reading and math skills, use of the internet to access information about their child’s progress, parental rights under No Child Left Behind, understanding child development, effective volunteer participation, parent leadership, parent organization involvement, High School Redesign, school choice options, community services, pre-school/Head Start programs, adult education programs and community education programs.
- Encourage and support the development and expansion of active PTA/PTO/PTSO organizations.

Accessibility

- Provide opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities and parents of migratory children. Information and school reports will be provided in a language that parents can understand.

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- Hold parent meetings and/or workshops at varied times and dates throughout the school year. Invitations for such opportunities will be provided in an understandable language and will be sent in a timely manner.
- Provide transportation, child care and translators for parent involvement activities where applicable and where funds permit.

References/Authority

Tennessee House Bill No. 2635, Chapter No. 706
Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA) §1118(a) (s)
DSOP 5125 – Student Records
ESEA Title I Law, Section §1116
MNPS Parent Survey Summary, 2008