

Obion County Schools

Parent and Family Engagement Policy



Revised 2018

1700 N. 5th Street

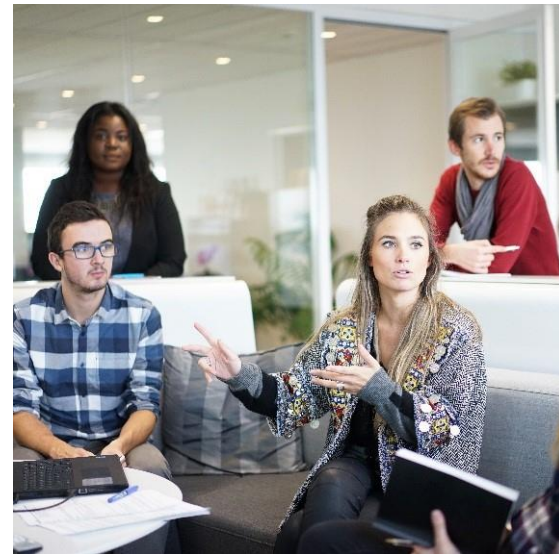
Union City, TN 38261

www.obioncountyschools.com

What is family engagement?

Family engagement means the participation of families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- (B) families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education;
- (C) families are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and
- (D) other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESEA.



About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Obion County Schools has developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools.

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and enjoy school more. Title I, Part A provides for substantive family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. The Obion County School System will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

When students, schools, families, and communities work together, we can achieve
Excellence Beyond Expectation!

Development

Representatives from each school were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve the parent and family engagement plan for the 2017-18 school year. The district advisory council met several times to revise the plan. Upon final revision, the policy was incorporated and posted on our district website. Families are always welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time by submitting written comments to your child's school.

The district parent and family engagement policy will be posted on the district and school websites, distributed during Title I school meetings annually, and made available to parents and families of new students.

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 plan.
2. Family engagement information is found on the Obion County Schools website.
3. Obion County Schools and Head Start have a memorandum of understanding.
4. Schools are supported in their efforts to provide family engagement activities.
5. Funds are set aside for family engagement events.
6. Parent-teacher conferences are held twice annually.
7. Meetings with parents of prek students are held twice annually.
8. Title I schools hold annual planning and informational meetings that involve families.
9. Schools hold Open Houses at the beginning of each year.
10. 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 family engagement policy on file and available to all stakeholders.
2. The plan is currently available in English and Spanish but will be available in other languages as needed.
3. The plan is reviewed and revised annually by the District Advisory Council.
4. Annually conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of the policy, including identifying barriers to greater participation by all families, and use the results to revise the policy.

Standard 3: Encourage individual schools to involve families and the local community on their school campuses.

Indicators:

1. Families are active participants in the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.
2. Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.
3. Information about meetings, events, student policies, reports, etc., is translated in parents' home language.
4. All families are welcome regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, or age.

Goals of the Obion County Board of Education:

1. To create a welcoming environment on each campus.

Strategies:

- Develop personal relationships
- Create a family-friendly atmosphere
- Provide opportunities to volunteer
- Respect all families
- Remove economic obstacles to participation
- Ensure accessible programming

2. To improve family engagement in student achievement.

Strategies:

- Ensure parent-teacher communication about student progress
- Assist parents in understanding academic standards
- Use standardized test results to increase achievement
- Share school progress
- Engage families in classroom learning
- Develop family ability to strengthen learning at home
- Develop families' capacity to effectively communicate concerns and problems
- Promote after-school learning
- Plan for students' futures
- Create smooth transitions
- Engage in civic advocacy for student achievement

3. To improve community communication and input into school system policies.

Strategies:

- Understand rights and responsibilities under federal and state laws
- Make community resources available
- Organize support from community partners
- Partner with community groups to strengthen families and support student success
- Advertise all meetings in newspapers, on radio stations, and on the district website
- Arrange to hold school board meetings at each school site at least once annually
- Showcase positive aspects of our school system at monthly meetings

Mark Your Calendars

For Parents

- Annual Parent and Family Survey: May, 2019
- School Improvement Meeting: May, 2019

Additional information about the Obion County School District or any of the individual schools can be found on the district's website at www.obioncountyschools.com.

