



# HARDEMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

*"Preparing for the Future, One Child at a Time"*

Warner A. Ross, II ~ Director of Schools

## **PARENT INVOLVEMENT PLAN 2019-2020**

Parental involvement is a centerpiece of Title I and can be defined as the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring —

- that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; and
- that parents 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.

Research suggests that children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and like school more, when schools, families, and community groups work together to support student learning. When schools engage families in ways that improve learning and support parent involvement at home and school, students make greater gains. When schools build partnerships with families that respond to parent concerns, honor their contributions, and share decision-making responsibilities, they are able to sustain connections that are aimed at improving student achievement.

The PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships offer a framework for how families, schools, and communities should work together to support student success. The framework for parental involvement, developed by the National PTA includes the following standards:

- **Welcoming all families into the school community** – Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class and school.
- **Communicating effectively** – Families and school staff engage in regular, meaningful communication about student learning.
- **Supporting student success** – Families and school staff continuously work together to support students' learning and healthy development both at home and at

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school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

- **Speaking up for each child** – Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.
- **Sharing power** – Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect students and families. Together, they inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.
- **Collaborating with community** – Families and school staff work together with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community service, and civic participation.

The Hardeman County School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements as outlined in the Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015:

**1. The Hardeman County School District has developed with parents, teachers, and administrators a written parent involvement plan.**

The Hardeman County School District encourages parents to actively participate in their child's educational experiences and maintains a commitment to increase parent involvement by building a strong partnership emphasizing shared responsibilities among students, parents, and school district personnel.

The parent involvement plan was developed using the TSBA model. Parent representatives from an elementary, middle, and high school served on the committee.

The school district's parent involvement plan was developed jointly with input from parents and stakeholders through the following types of involvement activities:

- parent involvement meetings,
- parent surveys,
- consultation with parents and/or stakeholders, and
- parent conferences.

**2. The Hardeman County School District has established the following expectations for parent involvement:**

All parents are expected to support their children's educational experience in the following ways:

- Provide a home environment that supports learning
- Provide a family routine that supports learning. (Example - setting a time and place for studying)
- Read to younger children.

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- Provide a variety of reading materials in the home and frequently take children to the library.
- Promote school attendance and discourage absenteeism.
- Monitor children's television viewing.
- Provide a quiet place for children to do homework; help with or check homework every night.
- Encourage children to participate in learning activities when school is not in session.
- Encourage children's efforts in school.
- Help children choose appropriate preparatory courses in elementary, middle, and high school.
- Remain aware of the importance of parent involvement at the secondary school level and continue to stay involved.
- Keep in touch with children's teachers.
- Volunteer to participate in and support classroom instruction in the classroom. Such opportunities, include but are not limited to organizing fundraising activities, volunteering as a field trip chaperone, assisting in the library, computer lab, etc.
- Participate in school-improvement efforts and join advisory or decision-making committees.

**2a. The Hardeman County School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district-wide parent involvement plan and the process of school review and improvement:**

- Provide parents with an opportunity to attend advisory council meetings
- Invite parents to serve on each school's advisory committee to develop/revise plans.
- Provide parents with opportunities to discuss and provide input through PTO and PIE organizations.
- Parents and educators will have the opportunity to provide input through surveys and through postings on the system's web page.

**2b. The Hardeman County School District will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the local educational agency in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education:**

- The Federal Programs Director will serve as the LEA's Parent Liaison and will work closely with school principals and Title I-Parent Liaisons in planning effective parent involvement activities at each school.

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- The district will maintain its website to inform parents of scheduled activities and provide links to each school's website.
- Title I schools will host an annual meeting to provide information regarding participation in federal programs and to collect feedback from parents.
- The district will subscribe to School Messenger as a means to inform parents of school activities.
- Each school will nominate parents to serve on the district parent involvement advisory board.
- The district parent involvement liaison will meet with each school's coordinator at the start of the school year, mid-point of the year, and end-of-the year to discuss parent involvement and family engagement activities, parent involvement standards, etc.
- Participate in the Family Friendly Schools – Engage! Workshop online and distribute information to schools.
- Provide schools with information regarding Epstein's research on parental involvement.
- Provide parents and community stakeholders with information regarding the importance of parental involvement through articles published in system wide and school parent newsletters.

**2c. The Hardeman County School District will coordinate and integrate parent involvement and family engagement strategies under this part with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs:**

- The district will coordinate and integrate parent involvement and family engagement strategies by collaborating with Head Start, Voluntary Pre-K program, special education department, Coordinated School Health, and the Tennessee Early Intervention System.
- Provide opportunities for stakeholders to participate in advisory council meetings

**2d. The Hardeman County School District will conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual consultation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools served under this part, including identifying-**

- barriers to greater participation in activities authorized by this section (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background):**
- the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers:**

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**iii. and strategies to support successful school and family interactions:**

- Complete an annual self-assessment of parent involvement and family engagement activities at each school and determine barriers to greater participation for parents.
- Implement possible solutions for barriers to greater participation in activities for many parents
- Use parent involvement standards in the process of completing the self-assessment to help develop and improve programs, practices, and policies that affect family and community engagement in schools.
- Use the assessment guide to
  - To assess current family involvement practices at the school
  - To develop ideas for involvement practices and activities
  - To inform the development of a school improvement plan
  - To monitor progress in reaching school improvement goals
  - To design professional development for staff
  - To discuss the Standards at PTA and faculty meetings
  - To conduct a school walk-through looking for evidence of implementation for each Standard
  - To create a survey for parents and staff
  - To guide the development of school-based parent involvement policies and compacts
  - To design research and evaluation studies and instruments
- Parent involvement notices will be written in a manner whereas parents can clearly read and understand.
- ESL teachers will provide assistance as needed for parents of English Learners.

**2e. The Hardeman County School District will use the findings of the evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policies described in this section:**

- Parent involvement coordinators will use the findings of the evaluation as they work with the district coordinator and parents to design strategies for more effective parental involvement activities.
- The district will maintain increased efforts to provide more effective parental involvement activities.

**2f. The Hardeman County School District will involve parents in the activities of the schools served under this part, which may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the local educational agency to adequately represent the need of the population served by such agency for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy**

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- Each school will nominate parents to serve on the district's parent advisory committee. Likewise, a group of parents will serve on each school's advisory team.
- Parents will participate in parent advisory committee meetings, complete surveys, and provide input via e-mail communications.

**3. The Hardeman County School District will involve parents in the decisions regarding how the 1% of Title I funds will be spent for parent involvement activities:**

- The parent advisory committee will discuss how to spend parent involvement funds during committee meetings.
- Parents will complete a survey regarding the use of parent involvement funds.
- Parents are also represented on the district-wide Parent Involvement Advisory Council, Preschool Advisory Council, and the Coordinated School Health Advisory Board.

**4. The Hardeman County School District will ensure that not less than 90% of the 1% reserved for parental involvement goes directly to the schools.**

- The Federal Programs Director will set aside 1% of the Title I budget for parental involvement.
- At least 90% of the 1% set aside will be allocated to the schools in each school's budget.
- The Federal Programs Director will ensure that each school spends its allocation to promote/increase parental involvement.
- District and site-based budgets will reflect a commitment to the effective development, implementation, and evaluation of family engagement programs including but not limited to the following:
  1. District calendar magnets
  2. School calendars
  3. System and school level newsletters and other publications (Ex. - Subscription to Home and School Connection by Parent Institute)
  4. System wide Spanish interpreter
  5. Workshops and materials
  6. Staff development
  7. PreK and K parent packets/bags

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