

**Shelby County Board of Education**

**7009**

**Issued Date: 07/27/11**

**Revised: 07/30/13**

**STANDARDS FOR FAMILY-COMMUNITY-SCHOOL  
PARTNERSHIPS**

**I. PURPOSE**

To promote a positive relationship between the family, community and school; and to support family, community and school partnerships including parent organizations.

**II. SCOPE**

This policy applies to partnerships, hereafter referred to as school support groups, including, but not limited to Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs); Parent Teacher Student Associations (PTSAs); Parents (Partners) in Education (PIE); Parent Teacher Organizations (PTOs); booster and other athletic and academic support groups; community support groups, and a district-wide Parent Assembly.

**III. POLICY STATEMENT**

The Shelby County Schools Board of Education recognizes the vital role that parents and community stakeholders play in ensuring that students have the necessary support for academic success. The Board acknowledges that school programs are enhanced through the efforts of stakeholders. Therefore, each school shall have a parent-led parent organization, including partnership with school support groups. Such partnerships include, but are not limited to Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs); Parent Teacher Student Associations (PTSAs); Parents (Partners) in Education (PIE); Parent Teacher Organization (PTOs); booster and other athletic and academic support groups; community support groups; and a district-wide Parent Assembly.

With the exception of PTAs and PTSAs who operate under state and/or national PTA bylaws, school support groups shall be governed by guidelines developed by the Superintendent. Additionally, the Superintendent shall establish criteria for

determining if an organization will be sanctioned (recognized) by the District as a viable school support organization.

### Standards

Administrators, principals, teachers and support staff at each school site are expected to create a climate of respect for and cooperation with families. To promote a climate of respect and cooperation the following standards based on the PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships shall be adopted by each school:

- Standard 1 - Welcome all families into the school community.
- Standard 2 - Communicate effectively with all families.
- Standard 3 - Support student success by collaborating with families to support students' learning and healthy development both at home and at school.
- Standard 4 - Encourage families to be advocates for their own children and other children in order to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.
- Standard 5 - Share power by ensuring that families and schools are given opportunities to share in decisions that affect children.
- Standard 6 - Ensure that families and schools collaborate with community members to connect students, families and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services and civil participation.

At a minimum, to ensure the aforementioned Standards are met, the Shelby County Board of Education directs that:

- Teachers and/or administrators, and/or school staff meet with families twice during each school year to discuss homework, attendance, discipline, policy, and expectations.
- Teachers and/or administrators invite families to meetings (i.e., monthly PTA meetings/Parent Advisory Meetings) to discuss strategies to improve student achievement and engagement.
- School staff encourage families to meet with school counselors annually to discuss students' course of study and plans for higher education.
- Administrators invite families to serve on committees (i.e., School Improvement Plan).
- Teachers and/or administrators provide families with access to all student learning materials in order for families to assist students in meeting their educational goals.
- The Superintendent shall establish a representative district-wide Parent Assembly to advise the Superintendent and senior staff, participate in developing and evaluating the district's Family Engagement Plan, and to

provide input into policies addressing such issues as homework, attendance and student behavior, planning and budget decisions.

#### **IV. RESPONSIBILITY**

- A. Parents/guardians are responsible for pursuing opportunities in the school, home environment and community that support their children’s education and ensure that their children meet academic standards.
- B. Principals are responsible for ensuring that family and community support group opportunities are available at his/her school.
- C. The office responsible for parent and community engagement is responsible for assisting schools in ensuring that the operations of school support groups are conducted in a manner that follows acceptable practices.
- D. The office responsible for academic operations is responsible for implementing this policy.
- E. The Superintendent is responsible for ensuring that this policy is followed.

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**Legal References:**

- 1. TCA 49-2-305
- 2. TCA 49-6-7001-7003
- 3. Title I of the Elementary and Secondary
- 4. Education Act, Section 1118
- 5. Tennessee State Board of Education,
- 6. Tennessee State Board of Education Policy No. 4.207  
(Standards for Family-School Partnerships)

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**Cross References:**

- 1. 7006 Parent Teacher (PTA) Parent  
Teacher Student Association (PTSA)