

**Morgan County Schools
Parent Involvement Plan
2013-2014**

- 1. The school district has developed with parents, teachers and administrators a written parent involvement policy.**
 - A policy was adopted in August 2005. This policy was updated on March 31, 2012

- 2. Morgan County Schools has established the following expectations for parent involvement:**
 - Provide a family routine that supports learning such as a set time for studying, watching television and going to bed.
 - Encourage children by asking about schoolwork and providing an appropriate atmosphere for doing homework and that homework is monitored and completed.
 - Encourage learning and the love of learning.
 - Encourage reading and writing.
 - Encourage child to show positive school behavior.
 - Assure that their child(ren) get to school on time and attend school regularly.
 - Encourage parent/teacher communication
 - Newsletters
 - Parent/Student/Teacher Compacts included in student handbooks
 - Title I website

- 3. Morgan County Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan:**
 - Appoint a Family and Community Advisory Council that will bi-annually assess, through consultation with parents, the effectiveness of this parental involvement plan. The advisory council shall be composed of representatives from parents of students from each school district and staff members from each school district.
 - An open-door policy should be in effect at every school
 - Include parents in school improvement and review process

- 4. Morgan County Schools will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:**
 - The district has encouraged each school to develop their committee's plan by having principal meetings, web pages, and school workshops.
 - The Director of Federal Projects and the Assistant Director will meet with principals to plan and implement effective parental involvement activities that are literacy focused.
 - Provide web site access for all schools to post calendars of school and system events, homework, curriculum information, parenting suggestions, links to the state curriculum standards, etc.
 - The Director of Federal Projects will make use of the new Alert Now system sending out encouraging messages to parents

- 5. Morgan County Schools will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist the schools and parents in building capacity for strong parent involvement.**
 - Visit web sites that contain information about parental involvement which should be included on each school's web site.
 - The district will actively raise the community's awareness of how important family involvement is to student's success and academic achievement through articles published in school newsletters.
 - The district will provide each school a place to house the school web site.
 - Include information at beginning of the year as to best way to contact parent
 - Opportunities for parent-teacher conferences are provided in both fall and spring semesters
 - Articles also need to appear in Morgan County News.
 - Encourage parent volunteers to help with literacy program

- 6. Morgan County Schools will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under the following programs: Head Start, State-operated preschool programs.**

- Opportunities are provided for parents through each school site such as, “Back to School Night,” and Special Education sponsored annual Child Find for parents.
 - Open House; inform parents about Title I programs
 - Include display of Title I programs and accomplishments
 - Use of transition programs with both students and parents
7. **The Morgan County School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its schools.**
- An annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent involvement plan will be held to identify barriers to encourage greater participation by parents.
 - Use more simplistic terminology
 - Needs a check and balance system
 - Use Alert Now to reach those parents without internet connections
8. **Morgan County Schools will identify barriers that prevent economically disadvantaged, disabled, limited English proficiency, limited literacy, racial, or ethnic minority background parents from participating in activities.**
- Each school will identify barriers in a faculty/staff meeting and parent advisory meeting and generate ideas to overcome those barriers and design strategies for improvement.
 - Each school will notify LEA of all situations involving these barriers.
9. **Morgan County Schools will use the findings from evaluations to design strategies for more effective parent involvement.**
- Parents have an opportunity to provide input through surveys and through postings on the web page. Cultural economic, language, and demographic issues will be given attention at principal’s meetings to be carried out through advisory councils and committees at each school site.
10. **Morgan County Schools Family and Community Advisory Council will revise the School District Parent Involvement Plan annually.**
- Time will be set aside to review and update the parent involvement plan annually.
11. **Morgan County Schools will build the schools’ and parent’s capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:**
- School newsletters are sent home on a regular basis and contain information regarding school report cards, test results, and suggestive strategies to help parents to become involved.
 - The district report card is linked to the district web site. Many teachers have web pages available online for parents to communicate with many teachers.
 - Transition classes have been integrated during the summer for grades pre-K, K, 5, and 8 for both parents and students to become familiar with changes in the school setting.
 - Notices and calendars of events will be posted on the District’s web site.
 - Email parents with important information such as changes in student’s grade
 - Email newsletters
 - Post newsletters on school website
12. **Morgan County Schools will design improvement strategies for homework and attendance.**

Attendance

- Parents will be contacted concerning excessive absences; a letter will be sent home once a student has accrued five unexcused absences; students with chronic absenteeism will be referred to the truancy board for review and assistance.
- Use of graduation coaches

Curriculum and School Communication

- School newsletters are sent home on a regular basis and contain information regarding school report cards, test results, and suggestive strategies to help parents to become involved.
- Some teacher web pages are now available online for parents to communicate with the teacher.

- Progress reports will be sent home at the 4-1/2 week intervals.
13. **Morgan County Schools will develop written procedures so that parents may learn about the course of study for their child(ren) and have access to all learning materials.**
- Schools provide information about standards and the curriculum (Fall Open House) which also should be linked to school's web page.
 - Teachers send home folders of student's work, especially in early grades.
 - Schools offer several family events each year.
 - Parents are invited during scheduled textbook reviews and hearings for input.
 - Include the Parent Involvement Policy in the student's handbooks at the beginning of the year.
14. **The school district has distributed to parents the written School District Parent Involvement Plan, and information related to student achievement, school performance, programs, meetings, and activities through the school newsletters.**
- Each school should have a "parental-involvement" box located in the office to allow parents to ask questions or offer suggestions.
 - Email; radio; school signs
15. **The school district has worked with its schools to ensure that school level parent involvement plans are developed.**
- The district has encouraged each school to develop their committee's plan by having principal meetings, web pages, and school workshops.
 - The Parent Outreach Partner works with principals to arrange activities that encourage parental involvement such as Book Bingo, Open Houses, Healthy Dances, etc.
 - The Director of Federal projects and the Assistant Director will meet with principals to plan and implement effective parental involvement activities that are literacy focused.
 - The Director of Federal projects will also encourage attendance by parents to the East Tennessee Title I conference held in December of each year.