

## **OVERTON COUNTY PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN**

The Overton County Board of Education is committed to providing a quality education for every child in the district. The board also endorses the concept that families and school personnel must work together to improve the quality of education for all students. When schools and families form strong partnerships, the academic success of all children improves significantly. The major benefits of parent involvement for students include: higher achievement test scores, better grades, more consistent attendance at school, more positive attitudes and better behavior, and more effective school wide programs and activities (Macfarlane, 1995).

A system-level advisory committee consisting of parents, administrators, and members of the community will be organized to develop the school district's "Parental Involvement Plan". The committee members will be volunteers representing parents from individual schools as well as LEA representatives and the community at large. The Overton County Parent Advisory Council (OCPAC) will meet at least annually to evaluate the effectiveness of the district's Parental Involvement Plan and subsequent activities. The evaluation procedures will consist of surveys distributed to all parents of Title I schools as well as discussion and review by OCPAC. Based upon survey data and discussion, revision to the plan will occur if warranted with negative comments being forwarded to state Title I Consultants. Parents will also be surveyed to identify barriers that might limit parental involvement such as lack of childcare during events, lack of transportation to events, handicapped accessibility, and language barriers including "English as a Second Language" concerns. Other barriers may emerge and will be addressed as well.

The LEA will provide coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement. Information pertaining to parent involvement requirements/activities will be distributed at principals' meetings and published in local newspapers, opportunities for staff development pertaining to "parental involvement" will be provided to teachers and/or counselors, district level personnel will meet with school level committees (school personnel and/or parent groups) regarding the effects of parental involvement upon student progress, and the LEA will assist with the school level "annual parent meetings" as needed/requested.

The LEA will build schools' and parents' capacity for strong parent involvement by providing materials such as "The Parent Corner" or "Home School Connections" on a regular basis; each year, at least one system-wide parent involvement activity pertaining to achievement, attendance or discipline will be held; and additional time will be provided for school level counselors to address to parental involvement concerns/activities (funded through "Safe/Drug Free and Extended-Contract" monies).

Through the use of extended time, counselors will hold parent sessions pertaining to improvement strategies for homework, attendance, and appropriate forms of discipline. Topics such as curriculum/courses of study and state standards for achievement will be addressed by the counselors as well as shared at grade level meetings, at PTO meetings, and at parent-teacher conferences. Information concerning the state's website will also be shared at meetings, in the newspaper, and through newsletters. School level websites (i.e. Teacher Web) will be utilized to keep parents informed of their child's assignments and classroom achievement. Information about homework, attendance, and discipline will be shared through the use of pamphlets, newsletters and newspaper articles.

The Overton County Parental Involvement Program will coordinate with other programs such as Head Start, The Stephens Child Abuse Prevention Center, Adult Basic Education Services, and the Overton County Health Department. Information from these agencies concerning program opportunities will be distributed annually to each school. Representatives from these groups will be invited to present information at each school's "annual parent meetings". In addition, the Title I Director will serve on the Overton County Health Council and the Head Start Advisory Board.

The system level "Parental Involvement Plan" will be included in the calendar given to each student at the beginning of the school year. Parental notices, as required by NCLB, will be included in school-level handbooks, in the newspapers,

and on the county's website. Overton County's Parental Involvement Policy will also be available on the county website.

Currently, Overton County receives more than \$500,000 in Title I funds. The law stipulates that LEA's receiving more than this amount will allocate at least 1% of the total allocation to parental involvement activities; moreover, not less than 95% of the 1% must be allocated to the individual Title I schools.