EASTERN LOCAL SCHOOLS
HOME OF THE WARRIORS

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Eastern Local School District's Board of Education recognizes the value of family engagement in a child's academic success and believes that the education of children is an ongoing cooperative partnership between the home and the school. Parents and other family members are their children's first teachers; therefore, the continued involvement of parents and family members in the educational process is most important in fostering and improving educational achievement. School staff shall strive to support parents and provide parents and family members with meaningful opportunities to become involved in the programs offered by the Title I schools. The board encourages parents and family members to participate in the design and implementation of the programs and activities in order to increase the effectiveness of the school system's Title I program in helping students meet state and local achievement standards.

The Every Student Succeeds Act OF 2015 (ESSA), an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), defines "parent" to include legal guardians or others acting in place of a parent, such as grandparents, stepparents, or others responsible for a child's welfare. The State Board of Education further uses the term "family" to encompass all primary caregivers— including foster parents, grandparents, and other responsible adults—who play key roles in a child's well-being. For the purposes of this policy, the term "parent and family engagement" means the participation of parents, guardians, and other family members in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student learning and other school activities.

To foster strong partnerships with families and the community, the Board sets forth the following goals and expectations for effective parent and family engagement:

I. **Relationships with Families**
   A. foster school environments that are welcoming, supportive, and student-centered;
   B. provide professional development for school staff that helps build partnerships between families and schools;
   C. Provide family activities that relate to various cultures, languages, practices, and customs, and bridge economic and cultural barriers;
   D. provide coordination, technical assistance and other support, and assist schools in planning and implementing family involvement activities.

II. **Effective Communication**
   A. provide information to families to support the health, safety, and well-being of their children;
   B. provide information to families about school policies, procedures, programs, and activities;
   C. promote regular and open communication between school personnel and families;
   D. communicate with families in a format and language that is understandable, to the extent practicable;
   E. provide information and involve families in monitoring student progress;
   F. provide families with timely and meaningful information regarding Ohio's academic standards,

State and local assessments, and pertinent legal provisions;

G. prepare families to be involved in meaningful discussions and meetings with school staff.

III. **Volunteer Opportunities**

A. provide volunteer opportunities for families to support their children's school activities;

B. Support needs, such as transportation and child care, to enable families to participate in school-sponsored family involvement events.

IV. **Learning at Home**

A. offering training and resources to help families learn strategies and skills to support at-home learning and success in school;

B. working with families to establish learning goals and help their children accomplish these goals;

C. helping families to provide a school and home environment that encourages learning and extends learning at home.

V. **Engaging Families in Decision Making and Advocacy**

A. engaging families as partners in the process of school review and continuous improvement planning;

B. engaging families in the development of its District-wide parent and family engagement policy and plan, and distributing the policy and plan to families.

VI. **Collaborating with the Community**

A. building constructive partnerships and connecting families with community-based programs and other community resources;

B. coordinating and integrating parent and family engagement programs and activities with District initiatives and community-based programs that encourage and support families' participation in their children's education, growth, and development.

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