

Pickwick Southside School

Family Engagement Policy for Student Success

2020-2021



Special points of interest:

- **What is the School Policy**
- **How is it revised?**
- **Who is it for?**
- **Where is it available?**
- **What is Title I?**
- **What are our Goals?**
- **What is our Family Engagement belief?**
- **What are Family Engagement Standards?**

School Policy:

This is a plan that describes how Pickwick Southside School will provide opportunities to improve family engagement to support student learning. Pickwick Southside School values the contributions and involvement of families to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This policy describes the different ways we will support family engagement for families to continue to participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home using Zoom, phone calls and remind app.

Policy Revision:

Pickwick Southside School invites parents and family members to be on a Parent/Family Council. This council meets to review and revise the school policy in the fall of the year. A family survey is distributed to all of our families to get feedback and suggestions for our school policy. We use surveys, meetings and activities to review and revise our policy for the next school year.

Whose Policy:

All students participating and their families are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this policy. Pickwick Southside School will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents and family members with limited English, with disabilities and of migratory children.

Availability:

Our school family engagement policy is availability to all students and families, located in the school office and on our website.

Title I:

Pickwick Southside School (along with all the other elementary schools in our district) is identified as a Title I school as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act. Title I is designed to support state and local school reform efforts tied to the challenging state academic standards to improve teaching and learning for students. All Title I schools must jointly develop with parents and family members a written parent and family engagement policy.

Hardin County Schools/Pickwick Southside School’s Family Engagement Changes Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

It is vitally important that our families are a part of what is happening in Hardin County Schools. This will look different this year as we work to comply with CDC guidelines concerning the COVID-19 Pandemic.

We will have Hardin County Schools website (hardincoschools.com), district/school phone messages, notices, newsletters, bulletin boards and social media posts to keep parents/families informed of any needed information, changes and/or cancellations. Family members are always welcome to call with any questions or concerns.

Parent and Family Engagement Beliefs

Pickwick Southside School believes that family engagement means the participation of parents and family members in regular two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- 1) That parents play an essential role in assisting their child’s learning.
- 2) That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school.
- 3) 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.

National PTA Standards

- Welcoming All Families 1
- Communication Effectively 2
- Supporting Student Success 3
- Speaking Up for Every Child 4
- Sharing Power 5
- Collaborating With Community 6

Family Engagement Policy Highlights

- 1) Pickwick Southside will provide parents/families with timely information about the Title I program. The school will send newsletters, notes on report cards, calendars and progress reports to give current information.
- 2) Pickwick Southside will provide parents/families with a description and explanation of the curriculum used and the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress as well as the proficiency levels students are expected to achieve on the TN READY Achievement Test. These can be explained by teachers via Zoom meetings, phone calls or at a small group parent/family training session.
- 3) Pickwick Southside will ensure that information relating to school small group meetings/trainings will be sent to parents/families or participating children in a form and appropriate language that all parents/families can understand.
- 4) Pickwick Southside will provide appropriate parent/family participation opportunities to formulate suggestions in decisions relating to a student's education by use of phone calls, messages home, zoom meeting or remind app.
- 5) Staff is educated in the value and the contributions of parents/families, and in working with them: how to reach out to, communicate with and work with as equal partners and build ties between parents/families and the school.
- 6) Title I funds may be used to pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent/family engagement activities that enable parents/families to participate in school related small group meetings and training sessions.
- 7) Parents/families will be involved in the planning, review and improvement of Pickwick Southside's Title I Parent/Family engagement policy, parent compact and the Tennessee School Improvement Plan.
- 8) Parent/family engagement strategies are coordinated and integrated with parent/family engagement strategies under other programs, such as state-run programs and Title I language/math instructional programs.
- 9) Pickwick Southside, to the extent practicable, will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents/families with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities and parents/families of migratory children.
- 10) The school's parent and family engagement policy/plan is available at the school, on the school/district website as well as being made available to the community.
- 11) The Parent/School/Student Compact will outline how everyone will share in the responsibility for improved student achievement. This compact will be reviewed and revised yearly by the Parent/Family Council.
- 12) Provide necessary materials and handouts for parents/families to help parents/families work with their child to improve their child's achievement.
- 13) Communicate with all families on a regular basis regarding schoolwide online/virtual events and/or activities, through newsletters, phone messages, our website, social media (Face Book) and Remind app.

School-Parent Compact

As part of this policy, Pickwick Southside School and our families will develop a school-parent compact. A compact is a written agreement that families, teacher and students jointly develop to explain how everyone will work together to ensure all students reach grade-level standards. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually, based on feedback from families, students and teachers during various evens and the parent council meetings. The school-parent compacts are also found in the school office and on the school's website. The compacts are shared with parents at parent teacher conferences as well.