

PTA National Involvement Standards

The National PTA highlighted six standards it believes are essential for any school or program involving parents and families. The standards are included in a guidebook that is designed to help educators and program administrators incorporate parents in their child's learning process.

The six factors identified by the National PTA are:

- Regular, two-way, meaningful communication between home and school
- Promotion and support of parenting skills
- Active parent participation in student learning
- Parents as welcome volunteer partners in schools
- Parents as full partners in school decisions that affect children and families
- Outreach to the community for resources to strengthen schools

The belief is that if schools consistently apply all six of these standards when they work with parents, a very effective team will develop that can only benefit the students. In addition to outlining the standards, the new handbook offers examples of how they can be applied, and ways to measure the effectiveness of putting them into practice. Suggestions are included on how to launch a parent involvement program, along with worksheets to help guide the process.

The standards have been endorsed by more than thirty national education and parent involvement organizations, including the Kansas State Board of Education.

The complete text of the handbook, as well as a summary of background reports on parent involvement, can be found at http://www.pta.org/files/BSP_Booklet.pdf

Anywhere School Parent Involvement Policy

The Kansas State School Board of Education endorses the six National Standards for Family-School Partnerships (NSFSP) to promote parent involvement in all Kansas schools. We are incorporating these standards into our parent involvement as well as the other schools in USD#ABC. The standards are listed below:

WELCOMING ALL FAMILIES IN THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY:

1. Office staff will be friendly and willing to help parents and community members in a positive way.
2. Signs are posted to help parents, students, and community members navigate through the school.
3. Student work is shown in halls and exhibited in a user friendly way.
4. An annual meeting will be available for all parents to attend to discuss parental involvement and requirements through Title I. Parents will be encouraged to come through letters and food, if budget allows. KPIPC will be discussed.
5. An ice cream social will be held each year to invite parents and students into the school the week school starts.
6. Parents are invited to lunch two times per year as well as newsletters describing that parents, grandparents, etc. are welcome any day to join a child for lunch.
7. Friday Friends was incorporated through our MTSS program which encourages parents to volunteer every Friday in some structures learning activities.

COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY:

1. A monthly newsletter from the schools office will be sent home.
2. A weekly newsletter will be sent home for each classroom.
3. The school principal will send out postcards for positive news.
4. Teachers are to contact parents by phone, after school and/or at home (around town) with positive news regarding their child(ren).
5. Assessment results are offered and shared with parents and community.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS SUCCESS:

1. Powerschool is available and encouraged for parents to use. They can look up information such as grades and attendance as well as lunch balances and notes.
2. Parent-Teacher Conferences are held twice a year, some teachers choose to have student lead conferences.
3. Reading packets are sent home starting mid-year Kindergarten. Parents are expected to listen to their child read nightly.
4. Monday Packets are sent home every Monday so parents know when all office notes will come home (routine). Parents are to check the packets every Monday and sign off that they got the information.

SPEAKING UP FOR EVERY CHILD:

1. Site Council is offered four times a year and all parents are encouraged to attend.
2. PTO meets once a month on Monday nights. They encourage all parents to attend and become active in their child(ren)'s education.

SHARING POWER:

1. Student, parent, and faculty surveys are sent out in the spring each year to collect information on how to provide better services to our students.
2. Each year Kindergarten teachers meet with the local early childhood agencies to discuss curriculum and student's needs.
3. USD#ABC offers 3-5 year old services such as speech, SPED pre-school, and help with cognitive delays.

COLLABORATING WITH COMMUNITY:

1. During Friday Friends, local businesses and organizations come in to provide assemblies for our students. Ex. Dentist, Resource Office, V.F.W., County Extension Office, Children Mercy (fruits and vegetables program), etc.
2. The Lions Club offers vision screenings at our Kindergarten Round-Ups.
3. Local businesses donate rewards to our students at our awards assemblies.
4. Local Insurance Agencies donate a dictionary to each third grader.
5. Local Banks donate dictionaries to our local Spelling Bee winners.