

BETHEL SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Community and Family Engagement Plan

GENERAL

This community and family engagement plan has been developed and agreed upon with community members and parents of students. It will be reviewed and updated periodically as needed to meet the changing needs of parents and our school. Names of individuals involved in the development of this policy are on file in the principal's office. A copy of this plan will be given to parents each year.

PARENTAL COMMENTS

Comments by community members and parents of participating children concerning dissatisfaction with the LEA plan shall be attached to the LEA plan when submitted to the State.

POLICY INVOLVEMENT

Two annual meetings to which all parents shall be invited (personal invitation) and encouraged to attend will be held each year. The meetings will be held at a time convenient to parents. At these meetings this policy, the availability of information concerning teachers' credentials, legal requirements, curriculum expectations and the parents' rights to be involved will be explained. In addition to the annual meetings, a flexible number (minimum of two) of meetings for parents will be offered throughout the year (Parent Visitation, Open House, monthly meetings of the Parent-Teacher Organization).

Parents are involved in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the Title I School-wide Program, including the community and family engagement plan through such means as meetings, conferences, written/oral communications, needs assessments and parent meetings.

Through such means as the Open House, Parent Teacher Conferences, monthly newsletter, parent meetings, formal and informal contacts, publications in local newspaper, local report cards, STAR reports, county-wide website with BSES link and State reports, parents of participating children are provided:

- ...timely information about the Title I School-wide Program;*
- ...information about and interpretation of the school's and child's performance;*
- ...a description and explanation of the state's academic content Standards, State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments, the curriculum, assessment measures, and proficiency expectations for students;*
- ...opportunities to share experiences, offer suggestions, and, as appropriate, participate in decisions relating to the education of their children; and*
- ...timely responses to their suggestions.*

SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HIGH STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Bethel Springs Elementary School has jointly developed with parents of students a School-parent Compact that outlines how parents, the school staff, and students share the responsibility for improved student achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards.

The compact describes the school's responsibility to provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables students to meet the State's student

performance standards, and the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting his/her children's learning.

The importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis is stressed in the compact through such means as urging parents to attend parent-teacher conferences during which the compact will be discussed as it relates to each child's achievement and urging teachers to send parents frequent reports on their children's progress. At Bethel Springs Elementary School, parents are given reasonable access to staff, provided opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class and observe classroom activities.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student achievement, Bethel Springs Elementary School through such means as meetings, conferences, workshops, the system-wide website with a BSES link and written and oral communications:

...provides assistance to parents in such areas as understanding the National Education Goals, the State's content standards and State student performance standards, the State Plan, State and local assessments, parent involvement requirements, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the performance of their children, as well as information on how to participate in decisions relating to the education of their children;

...provides materials coordinating necessary literacy training from other sources and provides training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement;

...educates teachers, pupil services personnel, the principal and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between home and school;

...coordinates and integrates parent involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Even Start, and other programs to the extent feasible and appropriate;

...develops appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities including providing information about opportunities for organizations and businesses to work with parents and schools, and encouraging the formation of partnerships between schools, and local businesses that include a role for parents;

...conducts other activities, as appropriate and feasible, that are designed to help parents become full partners in the education of their children such as a parent resource center and providing opportunities for parents to learn about child development and child rearing issues;

...ensures, to the extent possible, that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the homes of students in the language used in such homes; (The BSES website contains Alta Vista Babel Fish translations for eight languages.)

...provides such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request. A variety of pamphlets on life skills is available, as well as, a computerized parenting program which may be accessed at the parent's convenience.

...Comments concerning the school level parent involvement plan may be submitted to the LEA for possible discussion.

ACCESSIBILITY

In carrying out parental involvement requirements, Bethel Springs Elementary School, to the extent practicable, provides full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency or with

disabilities, including providing information and school profiles in a language and form such parents understand.

BETHEL SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENT COMPACT

SCHOOL MISSION: *Bethel Springs Elementary School exists to provide a quality education and promote a positive self-esteem in a safe environment. We will empower all students to test proficient or advanced in academic skills as outlined by Tennessee State Standards.*

SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY: *At Bethel Springs Elementary School, we are committed to provide experiences for students that enable them to develop the skills and attitudes that are necessary for becoming productive, responsible citizens in an ever-changing society. Each student needs to achieve and to excel in some way in order to enhance a positive, worthwhile concept about himself/herself.*

Parents, school and community must jointly share responsibility in the leaning and growing process of our children.

HAND IN HAND WE CAN LEARN AND WORK TOGETHER TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD.

AS A TEACHER, I will

- ...believe that each student can learn*
- ...show respect for each child and his/her family*
- ...come to class prepared to teach*
- ...provide an environment conducive to learning*
- ...help each child grow to his/her fullest potential*
- ...provide frequent information to parents on their child's progress*
- ...provide high quality curriculum and instruction*
- ...enforce school and classroom rules fairly and consistently*
- ...maintain open communication with students and parents by encouraging parents to visit and/or volunteer within the classroom*
- ...seek ways to involve parents in the school program*
- ...demonstrate professional behavior and a positive attitude*

AS A STUDENT, I will

- ...attend school regularly*
- ...always try to do my best in my work and in my behavior*
- ...work cooperatively with my classmates*
- ...show respect for myself, my school and other people*
- ...obey the school rules*
- ...take pride in my school*
- ...participate in the implementation of school-wide character education activities*

AS A PARENT/GUARDIAN, I will

- ...see that my child attends school regularly and on time*
- ...support the school in its efforts to maintain proper discipline*
- ...provide a home environment that encourages my child to learn*

- ...communicate often with my child's teacher*
- ...talk with my child about his/her school activities every day*
- ...encourage my child to read at home and to monitor his/her TV viewing*
- ...volunteer time at my child's school*
- ...attend parent teacher conferences*
- ...show respect and support for my child, the teachers and the school*
- ...access school information, teacher classroom activities, and student grades from the school webpage*

AS A PRINCIPAL, I will

- ...provide an environment that allows for positive communication between the teacher, parent, and student*
- ...encourage teachers to provide information about student progress*
- ...observe student, parent, and teacher participation in family enrichment activities*
- ...encourage parents to volunteer within their child's classroom*
- ...foster parent/teacher communication through a parent compact, which is reviewed annually and presented to parents during open house*

I have read and understand the Bethel Springs Elementary School Parent Compact.

Student: _____

Teacher: _____

Parent: _____

Date: _____