

Martin Elementary School

Parent and Family Engagement Plan

2023-2024

The Martin Elementary School program can be more efficient if families and the school form a committed relationship for the purpose of providing a positive learning environment for all students. It is our goal at MES to create a welcoming climate; one that will encourage students to come to school and arrive on time every day. This written plan has been developed and agreed upon with families and school staff. It will be reviewed and revised at a minimum of every two years. This plan will be distributed to families at the beginning of each school year and is also available on the school website.

A Fall Parent Orientation is held each year in August. All parents are invited to attend this meeting. Scheduled with the families' convenience in mind, it is a welcoming time that is designed to familiarize families with our school atmosphere in the hopes of building relationships and developing communication between families and teachers. In addition to this beginning of the year gathering, two parent teacher conferences are held each year; one is September and one in January. Additional parent-teacher meetings may be requested to meet with teachers and to offer input that relates to the well-being of their child's education. MES also hosts a Family Fun Night each fall and a Family Reading Night in the spring to promote family engagement. This event is extremely family oriented and features curriculum-based activities. This experience is free to all MES families and students.

Martin Elementary School has an active parent advisory board which meets several times throughout the school term. In these meetings, families are welcomed as education partners and urged to be involved in open communication. Information is shared about the Tennessee State Curriculum Standards, State and local assessments, school report card, and how to monitor their child's progress. Parents also learn how to work with educators to improve student achievement, as well as other pertinent educational issues. Families have opportunities to collaborate with other parents in PTO settings, as well as other education programs that are offered through the school. Other school information is shared through teacher newsletters, report cards, progress reports, as well as local newspaper articles and by accessing our school website.

Parents and staff at MES will work collaboratively to incorporate a School Compact which will describe the responsibilities of families, students, teachers, and administrators in the school. This compact will reflect suggestions made from meetings and other correspondence.

In closing, our Martin Elementary School Parent and Family Engagement Plan firmly embraces the Tennessee Parent and Family Engagement Standards listed below. It is our full intent to implement each of these standards within the context of our school environment.

Tennessee Parent and Family Engagement Standards

Standard 1: Welcoming all families into the school community-Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class and school.

Standard 2: Communicating effectively-Families and school staff engage in regular, meaningful communication about student learning.

Standard 3: Supporting student success-Families and school staff continuously work together to support students' learning and healthy development both at home and at school and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

Standard 4: Speaking up for every child-Families are informed and enabled to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

Standard 5: Sharing power-Families and school staff are equal partners with equal representation in decisions that affect students and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.

Standard 6: Collaborating with community-Families and school staff work together with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

Revised: May 2023