

Information for Principals and MTSS Teams to Support MTSS Family Engagement Structuring Tools - WPS MTSS Manual - Pages 21-22

How Do We Support PTA Standards for Family School Partnerships?

Standard 1: Welcoming all Families into the School Community

- Organize and conduct Porch Visits with all staff.
- Organize a system to give families who come to school later in the year a Welcome Packet.
- Ensure all signs, newsletters, flyers, etc., are translated into the language(s) representative of your school population.
- Utilize documents such as “Here’s My Child, Handle with Care. Have teachers distribute to families during Open House, Meet the Teacher Night, etc.
- Provide professional development for educators on building family-school partnerships.
- Ensure that the school marquee is kept up to date to both inform the community of upcoming events and to use as a reminder to families.
- Have staff participate in a Coffee at the Curb initiative to serve coffee and/or juice to families as they drop off their children.
- Utilize Multilingual Educational Services to schedule interpreters for meetings, Parent-Teacher Conferences, school events, Family Nights, etc.
- Utilize recruitment tools to invite families and community members to participate in your Site Council.
- Utilize both school data and family surveys to collect feedback to aid in the creation of your Parent Involvement Policy, Parent Involvement Compact and Family Engagement Action Plan.

Standard 2: Communicating Effectively

- Keep families informed of current school issues and concerns by regular newsletters, email or parent-link calls in the spoken language of the home.
- Utilize your School Improvement Plan to create and administer a Parent Involvement Survey to identify what parent involvement programs are wanted or needed.
- Provide tools or resources to staff and families to ensure that communication between school and home is two-way.
- Translate the Parent Involvement Survey into the languages spoken in the school community and make the survey available in multiple ways, i.e. in person, online, print and phone. Post results from the survey in your school newsletter, on your website, or on posters in the hallways.
- Create and promote opportunities for families to learn about other cultures.
- Develop a “Postcard Plan” for the utilization of Positive Postcards

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Standard 3: Supporting Student Success

- Provide families with resources and/or strategies to support learning at home (i.e. summer learning packets, literacy backpacks, math games, reading lists).
- Provide parents/guardians with opportunities to participate in setting student goals, monitoring progress and making instructional decisions (i.e. 504 plans, intervention strategies, Individualized Education Plans).
- Host Family Math and Family Reading nights.
- Provide opportunities to families so that they can learn how to interpret testing data. For example, hold a Site Council meeting and have your data leader explain testing data to families.
- Create a school-wide communication plan that facilitates fluid conversations with families about student progress throughout the school year.
- Target students with low grades and communicate regularly with families to get them back on track.
- Have teachers display student work with corresponding standards throughout the school.
- Communicate to staff ways they can share student progress with families outside of conferences and progress reports.
- Ensure that every activity, including music concerts and athletic events, are linked to learning. For example, at a school music program families are given the opportunity to learn how math relates to music.
- Communicate to families how student work is related to standards and provide examples of what work looks like for their child's age and grade level.

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Standard 4: Speaking up for Every Child

- Post the school mission, goals and appropriate staff contacts for parent concerns through various communication avenues, such as the school website, newsletters and handbooks (in multiple languages).
- Explain academic opportunities and resources to parents, including advanced placement courses and magnet programs, as well as structures in place to support students who are struggling and are receiving interventions.
- Offer workshops for parents to hear about behavioral plans, school discipline procedures and changes in the academic environment (CHAMPS, MTSS, Student-Led Conferences, BIST, etc.)
- Engage parents in a meaningful activities and decisions through Site Council.
- Collaborate with parent leaders on ways that they can welcome other families and offer information to them during transition events and orientations, such as Open House and Family Visit Days.
- Provide avenues for families and staff to help students make informed decisions that connect with career interests (goal setting, career sharing, ACT Career Planning Program).
- Utilize transition events between grades to educate parents/guardians in how expectations, standards and approaches to teaching change from grade level to grade level.
- Collect and share information with families on how they can advocate for their student's success (could be shared through short Parent Link messages, newsletters, flyers, website, workshops).
- Create forums for school staff and parent groups to develop strategies to identify and resolve problems or conflicts at school.
- Ensure that every student has a parent or another adult who advocates for them (i.e. grandparent, other relative, foster parent, Education Advocate, Court Appointed Special Advocate.)
- Partner with community colleges, businesses and organizations to expand opportunities for students to explore career opportunities.
- Provide a system for parents/guardians to ask questions, voice concerns and offer suggestions for improvement (i.e., suggestion box, appointment with staff, Coffee with the Principal).
- Involve parent leaders in advocating for student successes and needs at public forums such as local hearings, school board meetings, or offering information to neighborhood associations.

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Standard 5: Sharing Power

- Invite families to participate in leadership committees such as the Family Engagement Team, Site Council, etc.
- Collaborate with families in the development and implementation of behavior management plans.
- Recruit families representative of the school's population for membership on all committees.
- Collaborate with PTA to ensure that all activities are Linked to Learning and geared towards increasing student achievement.
- Provide opportunities for families to participate in the development of policies, programs, improvement efforts and events.
- Provide opportunities to committee members to enhance their skills and knowledge to fulfill committee responsibilities (i.e. Site Council Training).

Standard 6: Collaborating with Community

- Create and administer a Needs Assessment that asks staff members to identify ways that outside groups can positively impact your school.
- Create a poster that describes ways community members can participate in the life of your school and hang it on a school bulletin board.
- Invite community members to attend your school's Site Council meeting.
- Inventory businesses, churches, civic organizations and other entities that are within a one-mile radius of your school.
- Visit businesses at the beginning of the school year and leave information for how they can get involved with your school.
- Create a community bulletin board at your school and allow community groups to post flyers, leaflets, etc. on it.
- Set up a meeting or meetings with the leaders of businesses, churches, civic organizations and other entities that are within a one-mile radius of your school to discuss mutually-beneficial relationships.
- Invite community groups to school events to distribute information and/or to speak briefly about their organization.
- Invite community groups to present to students (and parents) motivational messages that coincide with school work, exam topics and/or overall academic achievement.
- Invite businesses to partner with your school in a variety of ways (i.e. volunteer opportunities, as members of Site Council, tutors, mentors, etc.)
- Collaborate with institutions of higher education and career and technical schools.