

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS

GOAL 1

Athens City Schools will insure that families and school community members have an opportunity to help develop the system's Family Engagement Plan.

Action Plan:

1. The district will use the "Family Friendly Survey" results as a basis for developing the Family Engagement Plan.
2. The district will establish a Family Engagement Advisory Board, consisting of school personnel, school board representative, and parents to oversee the development of plans and programs for Athens City Schools.
3. Family Engagement Committees at the school level will review the district plan and make recommendations for changes or revisions. These committees will include educators and parent/community members. The makeup of the committee should reflect the school's population.
4. The district will publish the plan/policy on its website for the community to review and offer any suggestions for revision.
5. The district will review the plan annually, meeting with representatives of school committees.
6. The Athens City Board of Education will review, revise, and approve the Parent/Family Engagement Policy 4.502.

GOAL 2

Athens City Schools will provide technical assistance and support for effective family engagement.

Action Plan:

1. The Family Engagement/NCLB Coordinator will meet with principals and school family engagement committees to provide expertise and guidance in developing school level engagement plans.
2. The district will provide training for all schools on family engagement involvement and issues (ex. Understanding Poverty Staff Development, August 2005).
3. Family engagement committees (parents, community, and school personnel) will provide input for more effective communication.

4. School websites and the district website will be examined and revised to promote effectiveness, accessibility, and interest.
5. The district will support the business partnerships (Adopt-a-School) that have been formed with each individual school.
6. The use of technology, such as emails and websites, will be emphasized for better school-home communication. “ Edline “ will be used at Athens Junior High School for parent contacts.
7. Technology accessibility will be offered at each school site for parents without computers.

GOAL 3

Athens City Schools will provide clearly articulated goals for family engagement and have evaluation procedures in place to determine the effectiveness of these goals at all school sites.

Action Plan:

1. The district will use the “Family Friendly Survey” to determine its goals regarding Family Engagement policies and plans.
2. Community interest for Before/After School Care, as reported in the “Family Friendly Survey”, will be addressed by the district.
3. The Family Engagement Advisory Board will develop the Family Engagement Plan for the district.
4. The district plan will be reviewed annually by the advisory board and school representatives.
5. All school sites will develop a family engagement plan, with input from their stakeholders, specifically for their site.
6. The district Advisory Board will develop a family survey to be distributed annually to families for an evaluation of the program and its effectiveness.
7. All survey results will be shared with the community and the district.
8. Results of all evaluative tools and surveys will be studied by family engagement school based committees and the Advisory Board, with recommendations on ways to increase the effectiveness of the district engagement plan.
9. Information about the district will be shared with the community using newspaper releases, Channel 95 television, brochures, newsletters, and public speaking opportunities.

GOAL 4

Athens City Schools will provide opportunities for parents at all school sites to access and understand curriculum materials, as well as Federal, State, and Local standards.

Action Plan:

- 1. The district will provide a school calendar to all families at the beginning of each school year.**
- 2. The district will produce a brochure on Family Friendly Schools, denoting contact information for the Board of Education, school sites and principals, central office contact persons, and benefits for student, family, and community regarding parent involvement.**
- 3. All schools will involve parents as members on the School Improvement Plan (SIP) teams.**
- 4. Each school shall develop and distribute a School-Home Compact at the beginning of the school year.**
- 5. All schools will provide student/parent handbooks that include individual school rules and procedures, parent rights and responsibilities, as well as Federal laws related to parental rights.**
- 6. The district and school websites will provide curriculum Information for each grade level.**
- 7. Schools will offer special events, such as Family Reading Night, Family Math Night, or Family Fun Night (physical education), open to all parents and students.**
- 8. The district will meet with parent and community groups to identify barriers, such as language, childcare, meeting locations and times, that prevent any group from participating in school activities.**
- 9. School engagement committees will examine current methods of communication used, such as newsletters, emails, portfolio notes, handbooks, and the like, citing areas for improvement.**
- 10. The district will provide opportunities for the involvement of Pre-School and Head Start parents through the Four Star Academy, Special Education services, Kindergarten registration, and Kindergarten assessment.**
- 11. All school sites will provide parenting classes as needed, determined by input from stakeholders in the School Improvement Plans.**
- 12. The Family Engagement Center will be established and equipped with materials to enable parents to assist their children in learning. The center will assist in distributing information to all parents.**