
2011

Forks River School
Family Involvement Plan

Smith County

Table of Contents

Preface.....	3
Parent Advisory Committee.....	4
Parent Involvement Goals.....	5
Strategies to Increase Family Involvement.....	6
Standard 1 – Welcoming All Families	
Accessibility.....	7
Standard 2 – Communicating Effectively	
LEA Set Aside Funding.....	8
Standard 3 – Supporting Student Success	
Unsafe Schools.....	9
Standard 4 – Speaking Up For Every Child	
Parent-Student-Teacher Compact	
Parents’ Right to Know.....	10
Standard 5 – Sharing Power	
Building Capacity.....	11
Standard 6 – Collaborating With Community	

Preface

The mission of Forks River School is to challenge students to excel in academic achievement, social development, and extracurricular opportunities. We believe it is our responsibility to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high- quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency in Tennessee academic achievement standards and academic standards. We value the role parents play as their children's first teacher and the influence of their continued support to promote higher student academic achievement and school performance.

Forks River School believes parental involvement is essential to achieve maximum social, emotional, and academic growth and will, therefore, foster and support an active parental involvement program.

The following plan was developed jointly with administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, and parents with this commitment to excellence in mind and is in compliance with the legal requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (PL 107-110 Section 1118).

School Wide Title 1
Parent Advisory Committee

Melinda Spivey.....Building Administrative Representative

Kim Maynard..... System Administrative Representative

Holly Anderson.....Literacy Leader/Parent Facilitator

Angie Hunter.....Parent Representative

Scotty Lewis.....Parent Representative

Nancy Mimms.....Parent Representative

Chris White.....Community Representative

Ricky Gibbs.....Community Representative

Jason Dyer.....Business Representative

Connie East.....Teacher Representative

Ellie Spike.....Teacher Representative

Paula Ipock.....Paraprofessional Representative

Parent Involvement Goals

- Parents and community members will have an opportunity to assist in the developing of school-wide programs.
- FRS families will participate in meaningful and effective parent programs that are relevant to the diverse needs of all of our families.
- FRS will remove barriers to parent involvement activities by providing information in appropriate languages and presenting programs, meetings, and activities at varying times to accommodate as many families as possible.
- The principal, faculty, and staff will maintain an open line of communication between school and home and work cooperatively with parent volunteers.
- FRS will gain family and community input through a family survey each spring and establish methods of distributing parenting materials, resources, and training.

Strategies to Increase Parent Involvement Standard 1 – Welcoming All Families

Forks River School promotes programs and practices that enhance parent and family involvement and reflects the specific needs of our students and families. Our strategies will include:

- Convening an annual meeting to encourage and facilitate family participation in the development of plans and policies including the School Wide Title 1 Plan and the Parent Involvement Plan.
- Offer a variety of meetings and activities throughout the school year that are relevant to the needs of our students and families including an Open House soon after school starts in the fall, awards programs, parent visitation events, student concerts, ballgames, and various other special parent involvement activities.
- Conduct a Family/Parent Needs Survey in the spring each year that seeks family/parent input on the effectiveness of our program plans.
- Maintain a school website that includes the School Improvement Plan and Parent Involvement Plan along with other relevant information for parents.
- Provide students with a handbook that has school information in it as well as provide families with many ways to get involved at school.
- Provide families with timely information about programs and activities in an understandable format through the website, newsletters, marquee, newspaper, and invitations.
- Actively seek and assist parent volunteers.
- Host a minimum of two parent-teacher conferences with additional meetings available upon request.

Accessibility
Standard 2 – Communicating Effectively

Forks River School will engage in regular, meaningful communication with its parents about student learning. In order to be as accessible as possible to our families we will:

- Provide translators if needed when presenting information.
- Assist persons of disabilities during school functions.
- Parents of migratory students will be provided information for assistance in meeting the needs of their child.
- Parents will be notified via phone, letter, website, e-mail or newspaper of meetings, conferences, programs, and activities.
- Conduct a minimum of two parent teacher conferences a year.
- Send home report cards each six weeks and mid six weeks progress report.
- Maintain a school website that includes information on school programs and policies.
- Notify parents after each benchmark assessment period as to achievement, improvement, and grade level expectations.
- Place school policies and rules in the student handbook.
- Utilize the local newspaper to acknowledge student achievements and successes as well as school events.

LEA Set Aside Funding
Standard 3 – Supporting Student Success

Each year Title 1 funds are allotted to Forks River School in support of student success through supplemental instruction and resources.

These Title 1 funds are used for materials, equipment, parent involvement, professional development, and resources that would otherwise be unobtainable through general funding.

The Parent Advisory Committee will make determinations on expenditures based on parent surveys, teacher request, standardized assessment results, and the School Improvement Plan.

Decisions made by the committee will be offered to families during the annual meeting to gain any additional input or comments.

Technology, equipment, and professional development consistently remains a high priority response on surveys and questionnaires.

Unsafe Schools
Standard 4 – Speaking Up For Every Child

Forks River School proudly holds a safe school status.

This information is shared with parents and families through the School Improvement Plan, annual school meeting, website, and the school newsletter.

Students are encouraged to discuss any fears or concerns they may have with either the school counselor, principal, or teachers.

The counselor teaches classes covering topics such as Dealing with Bullies, Drug Awareness, and Life Skills at all grade levels as appropriate.

Parents are encouraged to be their child's advocate anytime they feel the child is experiencing difficulty at school and contact the principal, teacher, or counselor.

Parent – Student – Teacher Compact
Parents’ Right to Know
Standard 5 – Sharing Power

To assure that FRS parents and families are equal partners in the decision making process of our programs, plans, and policies, we put forth the following information each year:

- A Parent – Student – Teacher Compact is presented to parents and students at the beginning of school and signed by all parties. The compact is located in the front of each student’s handbook so it is easily accessible at all times.
- A Parents’ Right to Know letter is included with each registration packet. Forks River School will provide parents information on their right to know the qualifications of their child’s teacher and paraprofessionals.
- A notification letter is sent home to parents when a teacher who has failed to reach highly qualified status is teaching their child or a substitute not deemed highly qualified has been in the classroom for four consecutive weeks.
- Parents are encouraged to serve on various committees that are responsible for the decisions affecting FRS programs and policies.
- School level professional development will include strategies for increasing parental involvement. All committee members will be notified of these PD activities and given the opportunity to attend.
- The goal of improving parent involvement at FRS is embedded in the School Improvement Plan.

Building Capacity Standard 6 – Collaborating with Community

Forks River School recognizes the importance of its support from community and area businesses through their contributions of money and sponsorships.

Dyer Heating and Cooling is a local business that regularly supports our school. Jason Dyer is the owner and serves on our Parent Advisory Committee. The company regularly donates money, volunteer hours, and supplemental items to school such as prizes for teachers or students and classroom materials.

Community Bank, Smith County Bank, and Citizens Bank are all sponsors of FRS programs that recognize student achievement and success and our annual walk a thon. Rewards such as tee shirts for perfect attendance, plaques for achievements, and prizes for our walk a thon are paid for with funds from these contributors.

The local health department, hospital, doctor and dentist offices contribute materials and information about community resources available to families.

The county mayor, commissioners, and school board members frequently attend school functions and participate in programs such as Read Across America Day and Veterans Day.

FRS coordinates with Head Start and area preschools through visitation days and pre-registration. These visitations offer parents an introduction to Forks River School and the principal, teachers, and staff prior to the start of school.

Programs and resources for homeless and migratory families are available through the school and the board of education. A backpack program is implemented so that students who are considered latch key children have access to healthy foods they can prepare themselves.

The State Department of Education along with the Smith County School System held a County Wide Forum explaining the new math standards mandated by the state. Dr. Connie Smith, along with other state leaders, fielded a Q & A session with parents across the county.

The local newspaper graciously allows the school to advertise meetings, conferences, and school events as well as acknowledge student achievement and success without charge.

Forks River School believes the shared responsibility of it's students and a partnership between school, home, and community will produce a positive effect on student achievement and create a sense of stakeholder ownership in our school's success.