



# **Standards for Family-School Partnerships Webinar Series**

## **Standard Five: Sharing Power**

July 31, 2019



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# **Standards for Family-School Partnerships**

# Standards for Family-School Partnerships

- Tennessee's Family Engagement Standards were enacted by Senate Bill No. 293 in 2009.
- These standards are based on the [PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships](#) and were formally adopted by the State Board of Education beginning in the 2010-11 school year.



Reference to any resource, organization, activity, product, or service does not constitute or imply endorsement by the Tennessee Department of Education.

# Monthly Webinar Series

- TDOE will host monthly webinars focused on the standards.
  - **Feb. 25, 2019; 11:00 a.m. CST** - Introduction and Standard One: Welcoming All Families
  - **March 22, 2019; 10:00 a.m. CST** - Standard Two: Communicating Effectively
  - **April 30, 2019; 10:00 a.m. CST** - Standard Three: Supporting Student Success
  - **June 27, 2019; 10:00 a.m. CST** - Standard Four: Speaking Up for Every Child
  - **July 31, 2019; 10:00 a.m. CST** - Standard Five: Sharing Power
  - **August 30, 2019; 10:00 a.m. CST** - Standard Six: Collaborating with Community
  
- All webinars will be recorded and posted in the “Parent and Family Engagement” folder in [TDOE Resources](#).

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# **Standard Five: Sharing Power**

# Objectives

- Identify characteristics of meaningful, shared decision making with families.
- Explore strategies for building parent leadership and strengthening family voice.

# Questions for Reflection

- What does it mean to share power with families?
- Why is it important for schools and families to share power?



# Sharing Power



Families and school staff are **equal** partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.

# Sharing Power



- Core beliefs around sharing power:
  - We believe we can engage families on their **strengths**;
  - We believe in the importance of **parent, family, and community voice**;
  - We believe in and foster the **co-creation and co-ownership of solutions**.

# Sharing Power

- Why should we share power with families?
  - Schools that provide opportunities for shared leadership with families are better able to meet the needs of the school and community.
  - Children of families who are engaged in some aspects of school decision making have high levels of student achievement as well as a more supportive community.



Auerbach, S. (2010). Beyond coffee with the principal: Toward leadership for authentic school-family partnerships. *Journal of School Leadership*, 20(6), 728-757.

Epstein, J., et.al.. (1997). *School, family, and community partnerships : Your handbook for action*. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Corwin Press

# Sharing Power



- Strong family advocates and leaders can work effectively with other families and professionals toward a common goal in their community and beyond.
  - Share their commitment
  - Organize others
  - Mobilize community members

Trainer, A. A. (2010). Diverse approaches to parent advocacy during special education home-school interactions: Identification and use of cultural and social capital. *Remedial and Special Education*, 31(1), 34-47.

# Sharing Power

- **Goal 1: Strengthening the Family's Voice in Shared Decision Making**
  - Ask yourself:
    - Are all families full partners in making decisions that affect their children at school and in the community?
  - Indicators:
    - Having a voice in all decisions that affect children
    - Addressing equity issues
    - Developing parent leadership



National PTA (2008). PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships Assessment Guide. National PTA: Washington, DC.

# Sharing Power

## ■ Goal 2: Building Families' Social and Political Connections

### — Ask yourself:

- Do families have a strong, broad-based organization that offers regular opportunities to develop relationships and raise concerns with school leaders, public officials, and business and community leaders?

### — Indicators:

- Connecting families to local officials
- Developing an effective parent involvement organization that represents all families



National PTA (2008). PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships Assessment Guide. National PTA: Washington, DC.

# Sharing Power



## What is social and political capital?

- Political capital: knowledge about issues and rights
- Social capital: relationships with key players such as school/district leaders, teachers, and other families

# Questions for Reflection

- What does it mean to share power with families?
- Why is it important for schools and families to share power?



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# **Strategies for Sharing Power**

# Questions for Reflection

- Does your district and/or school truly value the input of all families?
- Do you provide leadership opportunities and training for families?
- Do you provide support for family groups (PTA, PTO, PAC, etc.) and encourage family networking?
- In what decisions do you/will you engage families? What decisions will not involve families? Why?

# Sharing Power

Strategies for Sharing Power Include:

- Developing **family leaders**
- Creating a **collaborative environment**
- **Preparing families** for shared decision making
- **Reducing barriers** to shared decision making
- Building **social and political capital**
- Encouraging **family voice**
- Focusing on **collaboration and democratic decision making**

# Develop Family Leaders

- Meaningful family leadership in schools occurs when families gain the knowledge and skills to function in meaningful leadership roles and represent the “family voice” to help shape the direction of their schools’ programs and student achievement outcomes.



# Develop Family Leaders

- An effective family leader:
  - May be a parent, grandparent, relative, guardian, foster parent, or anyone else in a parenting role.
  - Has experience or knowledge about using resources and/or services to meet family, student, and community needs.
  - Speaks and acts from a families' perspective.
  - Is a strong advocate for themselves, their children, and other families in their community.

# Develop Family Leaders

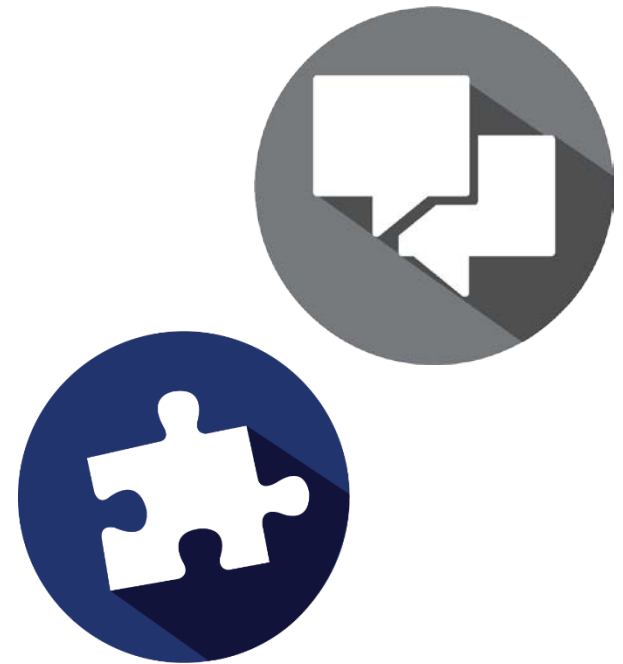
- Family leadership:
  - Is a strengths-based approach recognizing that families are most knowledgeable about their children, other families, and the community.
  - Builds upon the knowledge and skills that families already have and empowers families to develop and implement plans to reach specific goals.
  - Prepares families to take on leadership roles outside the school and district.
  - Models positive, productive behaviors for adults and students.

# Create A Collaborative Environment

- District/school culture, environment, and administrators' leadership styles can have an impact on developing family leaders.
- District and school leaders should model a collaborative approach that focuses on relationships and encourages staff and family leadership.
  - Create a climate of belonging.
  - Build trusting relationships.
  - Develop and communicate common goals.
- Develop a **policy** to ensure that families have an equal voice in all major decisions that affect children.

# Prepare Families For Shared Decision Making

- To effectively participate in decision making, families need timely information about:
  - Academic expectations,
  - Standards and curriculum,
  - Student and school progress,
  - Legal rights and responsibilities, and
  - How the system operates.





# Prepare Families For Shared Decision Making

- Provide training on communication and leadership skills that encourage everyone to speak.
  - Offer training for families and professionals together.



# Prepare Families For Shared Decision Making

- Provide opportunities for ALL families:
  - Include all groups:
    - Geographic representation
    - Ethnic representation
    - Special population representation
  - Be strategic to ensure all families can have a voice.
  - Be creative and intentional about how information, communication, and leadership opportunities are presented.



# Reduce Barriers To Shared Decision Making

- Provide childcare, transportation, translated materials, and interpreters for family meetings and events.
- Hold meetings at a convenient time for all.
- Encourage and provide opportunities for family networking.
- Provide opportunities for families to work together in small groups
- Use terminology that is common and understandable.

# Reduce Barriers To Shared Decision Making

- Reassure families that their voice counts and they are being heard.
- Give families staff support to do their work (ex. access to computers, copiers, phones, etc.)
- Think of other ways to engage families who can't attend meetings and events.
  - Surveys
  - Online discussion forums
  - Social media



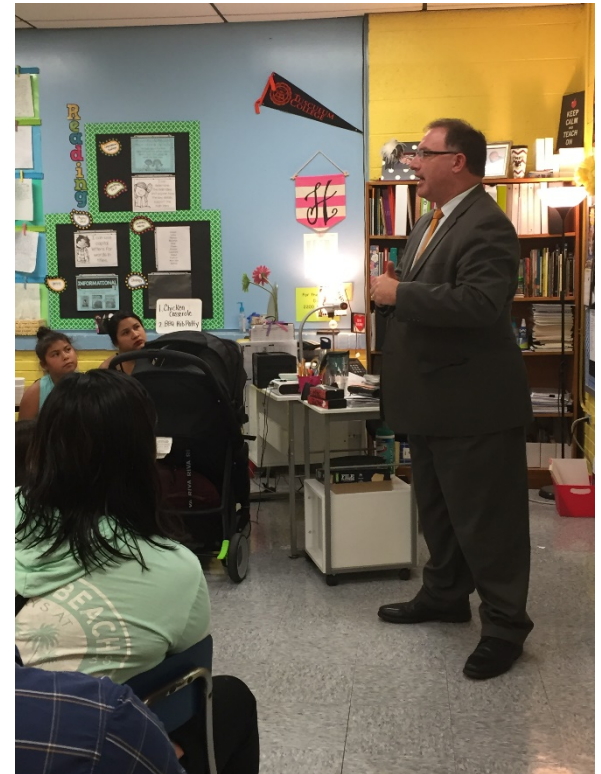
# Build Social and Political Capital

- Take families on field trips to district offices and school board meetings.
- Involve families in action research — conducting surveys of other families and investigating problems in the community.
- Provide opportunities for families to share their stories and get to know each other.

Henderson, A.T., Mapp, K.L., Johnson, V.R., & Davies, D. (2007). *Beyond the bake sale: The essential guide to family-school partnerships*. New York: The New Press.

# Build Social and Political Capital

- Invite candidates running for school board and local office to speak to families; have families co-develop the agenda for discussion.
  - If you can't hold a meeting, send home a brief summary on candidates and their stance on education issues
- Host meetings with local officials, such as local police, and other community leaders, so that families can learn about resources and issues in the community.



Henderson, A.T., Mapp, K.L., Johnson, V.R., & Davies, D. (2007). *Beyond the bake sale: The essential guide to family-school partnerships*. New York: The New Press.

# Encourage Family Voice

- Support the creation of parent/family groups ([PTA](#), [PTO](#), [PAC](#), etc.)
- Survey families annually and have families co-design the survey and analyze results.
- Hold focus groups or open forums to elicit ideas and surface concerns.
- Present data to ignite a sense of urgency.
- Break information up.
- Provide guiding handouts and questions that can help engage group discussion.

# Focus On Collaboration and Democratic Decision Making

- Characteristics of Consensus Decision Making
  - All members contribute.
    - Everyone has an opportunity to share feelings about an issue through discussions or group surveys.
  - Everyone’s opinion is encouraged and considered.
  - Differences are viewed as helpful rather than hindrances and disruptive.
  - Team members who continue to disagree are willing to experiment and “live with” a decision for a while.



# Focus On Collaboration and Democratic Decision Making



- Establish a governance council that has a voice in major decisions and includes family members elected by families.
- Create teams that are small yet inclusive of all family and community stakeholder groups.
- Help participants concentrate on solutions and find mutual ground in their conversations rather than focusing on differences.

# Focus On Collaboration and Democratic Decision Making

- Fully and meaningfully engage families in the process associated with the:
  - [Parent and Family Engagement Policy](#),
  - [School-Parent Compact](#),
  - [Annual Title I Meeting](#), and
  - District/school [improvement plan](#).
    - Form family sub-committees that function as an extension of the team and focus on specific issues/problems.



# Focus On Collaboration and Democratic Decision Making

- Create visuals (charts and infographics) that help participants understand, explore, and analyze important issues and data.
- Use a variety of engagement strategies to make sure everyone's voice is heard.
- Make sure everyone involved reaches consensus.
- Include family and community members on staff selection committees.
- Ask families to review and provide feedback on new textbooks, classroom materials, and curriculums.

# Questions for Reflection

- Does your district and/or school truly value the input of all families?
- Do you provide leadership opportunities and training for families?
- Do you provide support for family groups (PTA, PTO, PAC) and encourage family networking?
- In what decisions do you/will you engage families? What decisions will not involve families? Why?

# Reflection

What are some ways that your school and district share power with families?

Please send your promising practices to [Brinn.Obermiller@tn.gov](mailto:Brinn.Obermiller@tn.gov)



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# Resources

# Resources

- [PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships Implementation Guide](#)
- [Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships](#)
- [Engage Every Family: Five Simple Principles](#)
- [Developing a Written Parent and Family Engagement Policy: A Guide for Districts and Schools](#)
- [Make the Connection: Creating an Effective School-Parent Compact](#)
- [Annual Title I Meeting: Questions & Answers](#)

Reference to any resource, organization, activity, product, or service does not constitute or imply endorsement by the Tennessee Department of Education.

# Resources

- [School Level Reflection Rubric: Sharing Leadership](#)
- [Manual: Building Parent Leadership](#)
- [National Parent Leadership Institute](#)
- [Lessons Learned About Parent Leadership](#)
- [United Parent Leaders Action Network](#)
- [Special Quest](#) – focused on family leadership and inclusion in early childhood programs
- [Gathering Feedback and Input from Families: A Summary of Tools](#)

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# Resources

- [How to Organize Successful Parent Advisory Committees](#)
- [PPT: Creating and Running an Effective Advisory Board](#)
- [Building an Effective Advisory Committee](#)
- Video: [Building Stronger Schools with Parent Power](#)
- Video: [Power Tips - Shared Decision Making](#)
- Video: [Leading Effective Parent Meetings](#)
- Video: [What Parents Want to Know – How to Get Involved](#)

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# Webinar Series

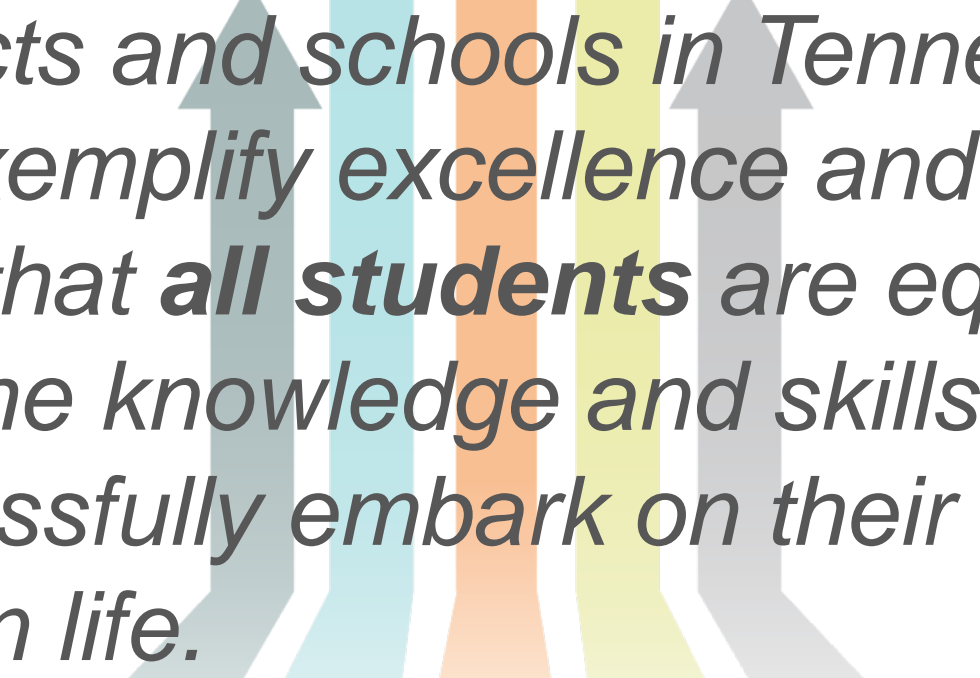
- Our next webinar will be held **August 30 at 10:00 CST**.
- Log-in information for all of the webinars can be found [here](#) or you may sign up for reminder emails [here](#).
- Recordings of all webinars will be posted in the “Parent and Family Engagement Resources” folder in [TDOE Resources](#) in ePlan.

# Questions? Feedback?



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# Our Vision



*Districts and schools in Tennessee will exemplify excellence and equity such that **all students** are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark on their chosen path in life.*

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