

SWEETWATER JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL Family and Community Engagement Plan

The following Family and Community Engagement Plan is based upon the concept that families have a major influence on their children's achievement in school and through life. As a result of this influence, positive results with student achievement occur when schools, families, and community groups work together to support learning. The focus of the Plan is to build trusting collaborative relationships among teachers, families, and community members. It also recognizes, respects, and addresses families' needs, as well as cultural differences. Every school in the district has received a copy of the plan and incorporates the standards as part of its own parent involvement plans.

The faculty and staff of Sweetwater Junior High School (SJHS) are committed to providing a safe learning environment in which all students are offered quality educational opportunities. We not only want to focus on students' academic needs, but also their technological and social needs. We encourage as well as challenge our parents and community to stay involved with the nurturing process and growth of our school family.

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.

Action Plan:

- Volunteers will be utilized for school needs, such as coaching sports, helping with the production of the school play and musical, Christmas float, and field trips.
- The school will sponsor a PTO.
- Parents are invited to eat with their children as desired.
- One morning each year is designated for "Muffins with Mom." Mothers are invited to eat breakfast with her student.
- One morning each year is designated for "Doughnuts with Dad." Dads are invited to eat breakfast with his fathers.
- One morning each year is dedicated to "Grandparents Day." Students invite grandparents to come and eat breakfast with them.
- Parents are invited to a school-wide awards day each six weeks.
- Sweetwater Utilities is a business partner with the school.

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

Action Plan:

- The school has a very informative school website which includes a school calendar.
- Open house is held at the start of each school year to inform parents on things such as curriculum, school procedures, and overall expectations. This is also an opportunity to meet teachers and staff.
- Parent-teacher conferences are held twice a year.

- Teachers initiate ongoing communication with parents concerning grades as well as discipline issues.
- All faculty and staff emails are accessible through the school website.
- A phone calling system is used to notify parents of various issues.

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 that will support their success.

Action Plan:

- Websites will provide educational information.
- The 4-H program will provide for projects and activities to be shared and constructed at home.
- Each class will have at-home projects that will allow for parent/student interaction.
- Each year we will have a Book Fair Family night.

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 being treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

Action Plan:

- Parents and community members will complete yearly surveys.
- Parents and community members will serve on School Improvement teams for collaborative decision-making.
- Parents are invited to attend classes and observe daily activities in a classroom.
- Parents are invited and encouraged to contact the school at any time to discuss issues involving concerns or opinions.
- Federal Programs and Special Education offers informational meetings for parents.

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.

Action Plan

- Parents are asked to serve on committees that discuss and implement the plan for school improvement.
- Parents will be asked to serve on a Parent Advisory Council which will discuss potential improvement and growth opportunities.
- Parents are invited to serve on the Parent/Teacher Organization.
- A parent advisory council will also have the opportunity to review and make recommendations for the student handbook and school procedures.

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.

Action Plan:

- Our school has a counselor that works with students daily and weekly to help meet their immediate and long term needs.
- The nursing staff provides yearly vision, hearing and dental screenings.
- The city school system provides for health screening through the School Coordinated Health program. This screening includes BMI, timed mile data, blood pressure, among others.
- The Sweetwater City School System provides a school based therapist.
- We work collaboratively with Sweetwater Valley Citizens for the Arts to bring programs, artist, and speakers to the school to learn from and enjoy. We graciously accept donations from SVCA for our art department.
- A community group of morning hall-walkers helps with cafeteria and hall supervision.
- The faculty and staff participate and attend various community events.