



## FORT HAYES METROPOLITAN EDUCATION CENTER

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*Mission: Each student is highly educated, prepared for leadership and service, and empowered for success as a citizen in a global community.*

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### 2111 - PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

The Columbus City Schools Board of Education recognizes and values parents and families as children's first teachers and decision-makers in education. The Board believes that student learning is more likely to occur when there is an effective partnership between the school and the student's parents and family. Such a partnership between the home and school and greater involvement of parents and family members in the education of their children generally result in higher academic achievement, improved student behavior, and reduced absenteeism. This policy shall serve as the District policy, as well as the Parent and Family Engagement policy for each school in the District.

In cultivating partnerships with families and communities, Fort Hayes is committed to the following:

#### **A. Relationships with Families**

1. Cultivate a school environment that is welcoming, supportive, and student-centered;
2. Provide professional development for Fort Hayes staff that helps build partnerships between our families and school;
3. Provide family activities that relate to various cultures, languages, practices, and customs, and bridge economic and cultural barriers;
4. Provide coordination, technical assistance and other support to assist us in planning and implementing family involvement activities. <sup>3</sup>

#### **B. Effective Communication**

1. Provide information to families to support the proper health, safety, and well-being of their children;
2. Provide information to families about school policies, procedures, programs, and activities;
3. Promote regular and open communication between school personnel and students' family members;
4. Communicate with families in a format and language that is understandable, to the extent practicable;
5. Provide information and involve families in monitoring student progress;
6. Provide families with timely and meaningful information regarding Ohio's academic standards, State and local assessments, and pertinent legal provisions;
7. Prepare opportunities for families to be involved in meaningful discussions and meetings with school staff.

### **C. Volunteer Opportunities**

1. Provide volunteer opportunities for families to support their children's school activities;
2. Support other needs to enable families to participate in school-sponsored family involvement events.

### **D. Learning at Home**

1. Offer resources to help families learn strategies and skills to support at-home learning and success in school;
2. Work with families to support and monitor learning goals and help their children accomplish these goals;
3. Help families to provide a school and home (partnership) environment that encourages learning and extends learning at home.

### **E. Engaging Families in Decision Making and Advocacy**

1. Engage families as partners in the process of school review and continuous improvement planning;
2. Engage families in the district-wide parent and family engagement policy and plan, and communicating the policy and plan to families.

### **F. Collaborating with the Community**

1. Build constructive partnerships and connect families with community-based programs and other community resources;
2. Coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with District initiatives and community-based programs that encourage and support families' participation in their children's education, growth, and development.

Sincerely,

Dr. Milton Ruffin  
Principal and Director  
of Fort Hayes Metropolitan Education Center