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South High School – Parents Rights to Know

Positive parent involvement is essential to student achievement.

Research shows that when families are involved in a child's education, test scores are higher, attendance is better and students have a more positive attitude. Every school is developing a Parent Involvement Plan that relates to a school meeting its academic goals. The plan outlines opportunities for families to get engaged in their child's education. Many schools have goals that reach beyond classroom volunteerism, such as providing parent training on specialized school computer programs and involving a higher percentage of parents in reading incentive programs.

Facts

Families can make a significant difference in children's learning and academic success. The following are some important facts:

- Students spend approximately 90% of their time from birth to age 18 outside of school
- When families are involved in school, reading test scores are higher.
- If a family values education and encourages learning, they can raise successful learners, regardless of their income level.

How Parents Can Help

Ask questions daily. Ask what the child is learning and press for specifics. A child should know what they are learning, such as the addition of two-digit numbers, long division, or multiple representations of data in algebra class. Ask the child if he or she is doing good work and help him or her self-assess the work. If a child can do this, then he or she is becoming an independent learner and can see the relevance of the work. If children don't know how or when to use information, it will be forgotten.

Visit the school regularly – Don't wait for a special occasion! Get to know your child's teacher and principal. Come by for lunch or visit the classroom. We want to get to know you. Quality learning requires meaningful two-way communication. In the interest of student safety, please be prepared to sign in at the office and show identification upon request. If a staff member stops you to ask for identification, please be aware that this is a safety precaution and is not intended to offend you or discourage your visit. Thank you for helping us keep our schools safe for students and staff.

Advocate for Your Child – You know your child better than anyone. Help us to learn more about him or her. Make sure the teacher, principal and staff know about any special needs your child may have. Attend parent-teacher conferences. Send a note to the teacher. Contact school staff anytime you have a question or concern.

Create an Enriched Learning Environment at Home – Did you know that the home is a classroom, too? Many learning opportunities happen in the home and community, as well as at school. Offer different kinds of reading material – magazines or newspapers as well as books. This enhances vocabulary and develops critical thinking skills.

The Columbus City School District does not discriminate because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex or handicap with regard to admission, access, treatment or employment. This policy is applicable in all district programs and activities.

Have Family Fun! - Spend a few minutes every day simply being together and enjoying each other's company. Listen to your child. Let your child pick up an activity to do with you, like a game or a walk or just talking. No one in the world can offer your child what you can. Remind your child that you belong to each other.

Parent Involvement Opportunities

In order to support and promote essential parent involvement, our district provides opportunities for parent involvement organized around the six National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement.

- **Communicating** – Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful.
- **Parenting** – Parenting skills are promoted and supported.
- **Student Learning** – Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning.
 - Volunteering – Parents are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance are sought.
- **School Decision Making and Advocacy** – Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families.
- **Collaborating and Community** – Community resources are used to strengthen schools, families, and student learning.