# PTA National Standards for Family – School Partnerships

## State Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council
## May 3, 2012

Patty Yohn, Family Engagement Chair
Georgia PTA

Michelle Sandrock, Parent Engagement Program Manager
Georgia Department of Education

# Overall Finding from the Research

**When families are involved at home and at school, children do better in school.**

# Parent Involvement Matters

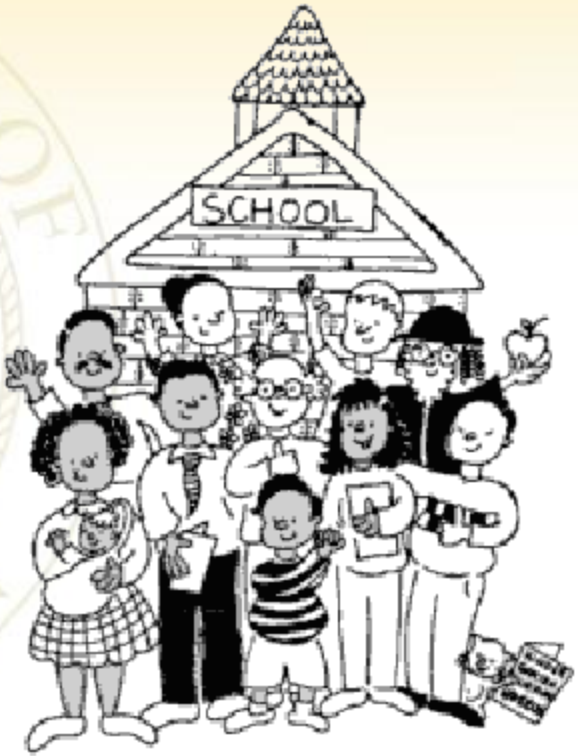
No matter what their family income or background may be, students with involved parents are more likely to:

- Earn higher grades and test scores
- Pass their classes
- Attend school regularly
- Have better social skills
- Graduate and go on to postsecondary education

# Parents Are More Likely to Become Involved When:

- Parents understand that they **SHOULD** be involved.
- Parents feel **CAPABLE** of making a contribution.
- Parents feel **INVITED** by their school and children.

(Hoover-Dempsey and Sandler, 1997)



# Family Engagement Is…

- A **shared responsibility** between families, schools, and communities.
- **Continuous** across a child's life.
- **Carried out** everywhere that children learn.

**(National Family, School, and Community Engagement Working Group, June 2009)**

# National Standards for Family – School Partnerships

# Georgia's Family Engagement Standards

Resolution

Georgia State Board of Education

The Georgia State Board of Education and the Georgia Department of Education Adopt Statement on Parent Engagement

WHEREAS, The Georgia State Board of Education and the Georgia Department of Education recognize that true partnerships between parents, schools, and communities working together throughout a child's educational journey results in students of all backgrounds and abilities achieving at highest levels; and

WHEREAS, The Georgia State Board of Education and the Georgia Department of Education recognize that parent engagement is an ongoing process that increases active participation, communication, and collaboration between parents, schools, and communities with the goal of educating the whole child to ensure student achievement and success; and

WHEREAS, The Georgia State Board of Education and the Georgia Department of Education recognize that the partnerships between parents, schools, and communities must be viewed as equal with shared responsibilities, but schools must take the lead in developing and sustaining these collaborative partnerships to ensure maximum effectiveness; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Georgia State Board of Education and the Georgia Department of Education hereby adopt this Resolution and Statement on Parent Engagement and strongly urge local school officials to use them as a guide in developing local school and district plans and policies.

In witness whereof, we have set our hands and caused the Georgia Department of Education Seal to be affixed this 10th day of November 2010.

Wanda T. Barrs, Chair
State Board of Education

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**In November of 2010, the Georgia State Board of Education Adopted PTA's National Standards for Family – School Partnerships as Georgia's Family Engagement Standards.**

# 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.**

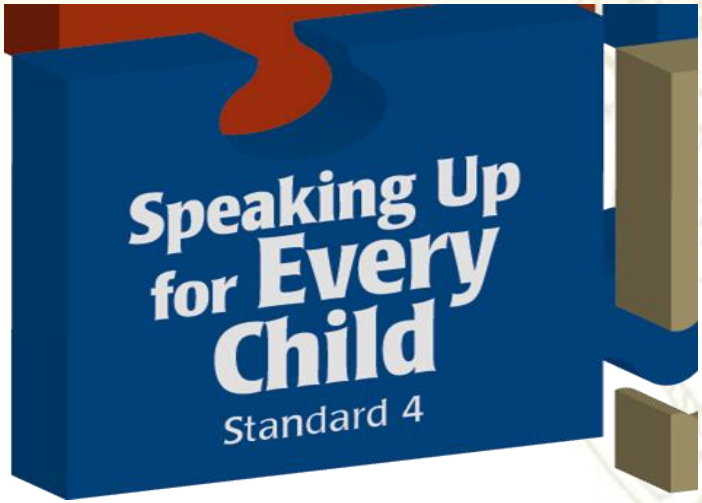
# Communicating Effectively

**Families and school staff engage in regular, two-way *meaningful communication* about student learning.**

# Supporting Student Success

**Families and school staff continuously *collaborate* to support students' learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.**

# Speaking Up for Every Child




**Families are *empowered* to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their successes.**

# 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.**

# Collaborating with the Community

**Families and school staff collaborate with community members to *connect* students, families, and staff to expand learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.**

# What do you think about the National Standards for Family – School Partnerships?

# Next Steps

- Share the National Standards for Family – School Partnerships with parents in your schools!
- Attend a workshop on the Standards with your PTA and Parent Involvement Coordinator. Learn how they are implementing the standards in your schools.
- Offer to assist in the implementation of the Standards in your child's school.

Learn more by visiting: www.pta.org

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