Standard 3:
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.

Ideas for Implementation

1. Involve families in school projects and student homework assignments. Find ways to incorporate parent input or support through student research papers, math assignments, physical education activities. Encourage or require teachers to facilitate this parent and student interaction at least once a month and track parent participation through logs or parent feedback.

2. Actively seek parents to serve on various committees or councils whose primary focus is the discussion and implementation of the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards. Use parents' ideas to discuss how to inform other families about student data and what can be done to raise expectations and achievement for all students. Learn ways to communicate the Standards to families so they are familiar with and involved in the student learning process.

3. Ensure student success by involving families in the creation of education plans for all students. Take time to discuss their student's strengths and areas of need as well as their learning style and learning goals for the year, for the next three years, or their graduation plan. Help parents identify discrete ways they can be a part of the plan to assist their child in reaching their goals at school and at home.

4. Develop Parent – School Compacts that matter by placing the focus on actual goals that are tied to student achievement for each school year. Bring parents together to learn about their child's curriculum for the year or if in high school, a particular class. Share school improvement goals and then ask them what they can commit to doing to help. Use the same process with students and teachers and then use the information to develop a compact that guides the parent-school-student partnership through the year. Refer to it often in school and parent-teacher communications.

5. Hold student led parent – teacher conferences to ensure ongoing communication between the child and their parent about their growth, development, and academic success. Use the time to discuss key strategies for success and ways families can support the learning process at home.

6. Establish a method for parents to review and support their child's work on a regular basis. Send student work home each week, inform parents of the learning standards to be covered in class with questions they can use to ask their children about what they are learning, display student work throughout the school with the corresponding standard and teacher feedback, provide tip sheets for parents on how to monitor their child's progress, or develop a way to measure parent participation at home through logs or frequent feedback.

7. Collaborate with parents by incorporating their talents and skills into classroom curriculum. Poll parents at the beginning of the year about their occupations, hobbies, and skills. Then integrate their talents into lesson plans. Have a parent artist help students with a class mural, have another parent skilled in building apply a real world lesson in math, or a parent who is a skilled seamstress discuss the science behind sewing. Work together with the parents to develop the lesson.

8. Offer workshops that help parents understand why they are important to their child's school and learning. Target school improvement goals and hold workshops on key academic topics as well as non-academic topics that influence student success. Help parents monitor class schedules, student career pathways, and college information. Move beyond one –stop workshops by integrating content learned into future activities and communications with families. Build a resource center that lends learning packets and provides families a place where they can get information on how to help their child.

9. Link all school programs and activities to academic learning. Show a video about what students are learning about science before the science fair competition begins, have a brief demonstration of how math and logic are incorporated into a basketball playbook during half time at a game, or discuss which music curriculum standards are being addressed before the beginning of the school choir concert.

10. Partner with school and community after-school programs to be sure they link to parent learning and other family engagement initiatives. Encourage after-school programs to share the school curriculum with families. Schedule joint activities outside of the school to reach some of the same families you serve.

Reference:

National Parent Teacher Association (PTA). (2009). *PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships: An Implementation Guide.* Retrieved from http://www.pta.org/2757.asp

Your Ideas for Implementation

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