



# WHITMORE LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## *PARENT INVOLVEMENT PLAN—2005*

The Board of Education believes that durable and significant learning by a student is more likely to occur when there is an effective partnership between the school and the student's parent/guardians ("parents"). Such a partnership means a mutual belief in and a commitment to significant educational goals for a student, a plan for the means to accomplish those goals, cooperation on developing and implementing solutions to problems that may be encountered, and continuing communication regarding the progress in accomplishing the goal(s).

Whitmore Lake Public Schools is a member of the National Network of Partnership Schools and believes that the Six Types of Involvement as outlined in the work of Joyce Epstein serves as a useful framework for the district's parent involvement plan.



**PARENTING:** Assist families with parenting and child-rearing skills, understanding child and adolescent development, and setting home conditions that support children as students at each age and grade level. Assist schools in understanding families.

Whitmore Lake Schools will:

- Provide parenting classes throughout the year;
- Provide grandparents as parents support groups.



**COMMUNICATING:** Communicate with families about school programs and student progress through effective school-to-home and home-to-school communications.

Whitmore Lake Public Schools will:

- Provide child's individual assessment results, reading results, progress reports and report cards to parents;
- Provide a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the District, the form of assessment(s) used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet;

- Provide student handbook's that outline each school's discipline plan and attendance policy;
- Arrange for flexible scheduled parent/teacher conferences and parent requested conferences;
- Post PTA/VIP/PTSO meetings, and parent involvement meetings on the District website and via e-mail;
- Publish District and School Newsletter(s) informing parents about the parent involvement plan and other events at the school(s);
- Send home a parent-student-teacher compact that outlines how parents and school staff will share the responsibility for improved student achievement of their children;
- Send folders or reports home to keep parents abreast of individual student progress and maintain open lines of communication;
- Make calls, use e-mail, and/or letters as needed for teachers and administrators to communicate with parents;
- Place announcements on the District's cable television channel and website in a consistent and timely manner; and
- Place current and accurate announcements on the schools marquis throughout the district.



**VOLUNTEERING:** Improve recruitment, training, work, and schedules to involve families as volunteers and audiences at school or in other locations to support students and school programs.

Whitmore Lake Public Schools will:

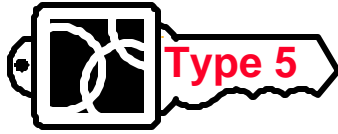
- Encourage parents to serve as chaperones for class field trips and other school activities;
- Hold an annual recognition event for parents and volunteers who have helped throughout the year; and
- Encourage active faculty participation in PTA/VIP/PTSO.



**LEARNING AT HOME:** Involve families with their children in learning activities at home, including homework and other curriculum-related activities and decisions

Whitmore Lake Public Schools will:

- Use the homework hotline to inform parents of various assignments and activities.
- Utilize the website as available for posting homework assignments and providing suggestions for parent support.



**DECISION MAKING:** Include families as participants in school decisions, governance, and advocacy through PTA/PTO, school councils, committees, action teams, and other parent organizations.

Whitmore Lake Public Schools will:

- Post PTA/VIP/PTSO meetings and parent involvement meetings on the District website and via e-mail;
- Schedule meetings to provide parents the opportunity to share concerns and desires, to better improve the school environment and student achievement; and
- Include parent representation on school improvement teams and the district school improvement committee.



**COLLABORATING WITH COMMUNITY:** Coordinate resources and services for students, families, and the school with businesses, agencies, and other groups, and provide services to the community.

Whitmore Lake Public Schools will:

- Have students perform at various functions both at school and throughout the community;
- Encourage continued positive partnerships involvement throughout the community by staff and administrators; and,
- Build partnerships with local businesses and agencies to expand learning opportunities for students.