

Parent Relations

Getting Involved in Okolona Municipal Separate Schools

Getting Involved! The Parent, School, and Community Involvement Guide

This Guide offers suggestions, tips and a grade-level map to successful involvement by parents, families and the community.

Parent involvement is critical to the success of students in school. Getting involved in the Okolona School District will show your child that you think school is important. Below are some ways to get involved.

- When school begins, contact your child's teacher to introduce yourself.
- Attend the opening day of school activities, for example, an open house or family night.
- Join the Okolona PTO.
- Attend activities in which your child participates -- field trips, school performances, student exhibits, etc.
- Encourage your child's teacher to contact you regularly about your child's academic progress.
- If the teacher doesn't contact you, contact the teacher periodically, to see how things are going. This will remind the teacher how much you value your child's education.
- Be active in the Okolona School District. Let your child's teacher and principal know that you want to be involved and offer to serve as a resource for your unique knowledge or experiences.

Students whose families are involved in school will be more successful. Some of the benefits of parental involvement include:

- Student achievement increases regardless of the parent's own education, economic, or ethnic/racial background;
- Student attitudes are more positive;
- Negative student behavior decreases;
- Graduation rates are higher;
- Students have higher grades, better attendance, and complete homework more often;
- Teachers become more enthusiastic;
- Teachers have higher expectations for students

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Tips for Parents in Okolona Municipal Separate Schools

Parents are the most important teachers in a child's life and play a crucial role in their child's learning process. Below are some important steps parents can take to support their child's success in school.

- Provide your child with a proper diet, school supplies, and other basic needs.
- Provide a study environment for learning at home. Provide resources for learning including books and magazines and utilize the local library.
- Get to know your child's teacher. Let your child's teacher know that you are ready to work together.
- Meet and talk with other parents and the school staff.
- Learn about your school's curriculum and support services.
- Provide encouragement for homework.
- Encourage your child to talk to teachers if he or she does not understand an assignment.
- Read and talk about information sent home from school.
- Ask your child about his or her school day -- what was learned, new experiences, friends, etc.
- Help your child stay calm and confident on test days, and send him or her to school well-rested. Make sure he or she has breakfast at home or at school.
- Recognize progress and praise efforts that are made.
- Be a good example that learning is a lifelong process.

Home is Where Learning Grows!

There is no place like home to support everything your child learns in school.

Because you are your child's first teacher, your home can be like his or her classroom if you make sure there are many learning opportunities there.

Simple activities like singing songs, reading aloud, using new words, and playing games with lowercase and uppercase letters are just a few of the ways you can help your child.

When you do this, you become a **team member** in your child's learning process because teachers use similar exercises to build confidence and increase understanding in the classroom.

All parents want their children to succeed, and all children do better in school when parents and teachers work together as partners to support children's learning.

Parent's Plan for Success

Building a strong foundation for your child to support reading development is key to his or her success in school.

That's because reading is at the heart of all learning. Research shows that children who read well in the early grades are far more successful in later grades in subject like math, history and science.

The *No Child Left Behind Act* calls for both parents and teachers to take responsibility for the academic achievement of students.

A few things you can do to make your child a better reader are:

- Read or listen to your child read his or her favorite book over and over again.
- Stop and ask about the pictures and what is happening in the story.
- Play with language. Make up nonsense words that rhyme.
- Praise your child when he or she begins to memorize parts of books that you have read, an important part of the reading process.
- Do word searches for new words learned in magazines and newspapers. Look those words up in the dictionary to reinforce their meaning.