

Effective School-Family Compact Checklist

Each school will jointly develop with parents a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and how the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards. The compact shall:

- Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served to meet the state academic standards,
 - Describe the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, volunteering in their child's classroom and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extra-curricular time;
 - Address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum:
 - Parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement.
 - Frequent reports to parents on their children's progress.
 - Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities, and ensuring regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff in a language that family members can understand.
 - KDE requires school-parent compacts to be signed by all involved parties and kept on file at each school as documentation.
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School-Family Compact Best Practices

Responsibilities of the School:

Explain district and school goals to meet student academic achievement standards.

- Ensure that evidence-based parent and family engagement activities are embedded in the CSIP.
- Create specific goals based on achievement data.
- Maintain a dialogue with families by encouraging questions, suggestions and feedback regarding the Title I program.
- Get input from students. Ask students how they want their teachers and families to support them.

Describe teachers' responsibility for supporting student learning and providing high-quality curriculum and instruction:

- Provide details on how teachers will help families understand what children are learning and doing in class.
- Be specific in how teachers will support parent participation at each grade level.
- Provide real-life connections for students to what they are learning in class.
- Encourage students to share what they are learning in class with their families.

Responsibilities of the Family:

Describe parents' responsibility for supporting student learning.

- Require regular school attendance.
- Provide a quiet, well-lit study area.

- Establish a regular time for homework.
- Encourage positive attitudes about school.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences.

Responsibilities of the Student:

Describe students' responsibility for their learning.

- Come to school prepared to learn.
- Complete assigned schoolwork and homework on time.
- Follow school rules.
- Show respect for yourself and others.

An effective school-family compact also should:

- Describe how families are involved in jointly developing and reviewing the compact.
- Describe the provision of resources to take part in the process of parent participation, which may include child-care or transportation.
- Describe how schools will work with families to eliminate confusing terminology and ensure the compact clearly explains expectations.
- Describe how schools will consult with families to determine what methods of communication work best for them.
- Be accessible, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents understand.
- Be signed by all participating stakeholders (teacher, parent and student).

Communication Student Progress:

Describe multiple methods for regular teacher-family communication.

- Incorporate discussing responsibilities listed in the compact during parent-teacher conferences.
- Support families and students through follow-up steps:
 - Keep families up to date on student progress.
 - Provide families with tips on home learning.
- Consult with families and determine what methods of communication work best for them.